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## BEOWULF,

# AN ANGLO-SAXON EPIC POEM,

## TRANSLATED

FROM THE HEYNE-SOCIN TEXT

BY

JNO: LESSLIE HALL,

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND HISTORY IN THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

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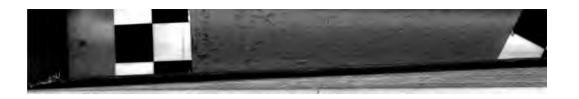
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#### PREFACE.

The present work is a modest effort to reproduce approximately, in modern measures, the venerable epic, Beowulf. *Approximately*, I repeat; for a very close reproduction of Anglo-Saxon verse would, to a large extent, be prose to a modern ear.

The Heyne-Socin text and glossary have been closely followed. Occasionally a deviation has been made, but always for what seemed good and sufficient reason. The translator does not aim to be an editor. Once in a while, however, he has added a conjecture of his own to the emendations quoted from the criticisms of other students of the poem.

This work is addressed to two classes of readers. From both of these alike the translator begs sympathy and co-operation. The Anglo-Saxon scholar he hopes to please by adhering faithfully to the original. The student of English literature he aims to interest by giving him, in modern garb, the most ancient epic of our race. This is a bold and venturesome undertaking; and yet there must be some students of the Teutonic past willing to follow even a daring guide, if they may read in modern phrases of the sorrows of Hrothgar, of the prowess of Beowulf, and of the feelings that stirred the hearts of our forefathers in their primeval homes.

In order to please the larger class of readers, a regular cadence has been used, a measure which, while retaining the essential characteristics of the original, permits the reader to see ahead of him in reading.

Perhaps every Anglo-Saxon scholar has his own theory as to how Beowulf should be translated. Some have given us prose versions of what we believe to be a great poem. Is it any reflection on our honored Kemble and Arnold to say that their translations fail to show a layman that Beowulf is justly called our first *epic?* Of those translators who have used verse, several have written

ì

epic.

The measure used in the present translation is reproduction of the original as modern English afforce resemble those used by Browning in some of his most four stresses of the Anglo-Saxon verse are retained, anacrusis is allowed as is consistent with a regular consistent used to a large extent; but it was thought that retolerate it on every line. End-rhyme has been use rhyme, sporadically. Both have some warrant in Anglend-rhyme, see 1 & 154; for internal rhyme, 2 21, 6 44.

What Gummere 1 calls the "rime-giver" has been s first accented syllable in the second half-verse always and the last accented syllable alliterates only sporadication is occasionally used as in the original. (See 7 61,

No two accented syllables have been brought togetl after a cæsural pause. (See 2 10 and 12 1.) Or, scientifi C type has been avoided as not consonant with the plar of his types, however, constantly occur; e.g. A and a va:  $\times$ ); B and a variant ( $\times \angle | \times \angle |$ ) ( $\times \times \angle | \times \angle |$ ); a variation.

The parallelisms of the original have been faithfully nd 1 17: "Lord" and "Wielder of Glory"; 1 20, 1 27 and 2 28; 3 5 and 3 6) Occasion"

avoided. Again, though many archaic words have been used, there are none, it is believed, which are not found in standard modern poetry.

With these preliminary remarks, it will not be amiss to give an outline of the story of the poem.

#### THE STORY.

Hrothgar, king of the Danes, or Scyldings, builds a great mead-hall, or palace, in which he hopes to feast his liegemen and to give them presents. The joy of king and retainers is, however, of short duration. Grendel, the monster, is seized with hateful jealousy. He cannot brook the sounds of joyance that reach him down in his fen-dwelling near the hall. Oft and anon he goes to the joyous building, bent on direful mischief. Thane after thane is ruthlessly carried off and devoured, while no one is found strong enough and bold enough to cope with the monster. For twelve years he persecutes Hrothgar and his vassals.

Over sea, a day's voyage off, Beowulf, of the Geats, nephew of Higelac, king of the Geats, hears of Grendel's doings and of Hrothgar's misery. He resolves to crush the fell monster and relieve the aged king. With fourteen chosen companions, he sets sail for Dane-land. Reaching that country, he soon persuades Hrothgar of his ability to help him. The hours that elapse before night are spent in beer-drinking and conversation. When Hrothgar's bedtime comes he leaves the hall in charge of Beowulf, telling him that never before has he given to another the absolute wardship of his palace. All retire to rest, Beowulf, as it were, sleeping upon his arms.

Grendel comes, the great march-stepper, bearing God's anger. He seizes and kills one of the sleeping warriors. Then he advances towards Beowulf. A fierce and desperate hand-to-hand struggle ensues. No arms are used, both combatants trusting to strength and hand-grip. Beowulf tears Grendel's shoulder from its socket, and the monster retreats to his den, howling and yelling with agony and fury. The wound is fatal.

The next morning, at early dawn, warriors in numbers flock to the hall Heorot, to hear the news. Joy is boundless. Glee runs high. Hrothgar and his retainers are lavish of gratitude and of gifts.

Grendel's mother, however, comes the next night to avenge his death. She is furious and raging. While Beowulf is sleeping in a room somewhat apart

.. s neull.

Joy is renewed at Heorot. Congratulations Irothgar literally pours treasures into the lap of a smong the vassals of the king that Beowulf will be the Beowulf leaves Dane-land. Hrothgar weeps and When the hero arrives in his own land, Higela uished guest. He is the hero of the hour.

Beowulf subsequently becomes king of his own peocas been ruling for fifty years, his own neighborhood fre-spewing dragon. Beowulf determines to kill him. oth Beowulf and the dragon are slain. The grief of ble. They determine, however, to leave nothing undo their lord. A great funeral-pyre is built, and his emorial-barrow is made, visible from a great distance constantly reminded of the prowess of the national he The poem closes with a glowing tribute to his bra adness of heart, and his generosity.

It is the devout desire of this translator to hasten Beowulf shall be as familiar to English-speaking peopowulf is our first great epic. It is an epitomized histonic races. It brings vividly before us our foreful, in their love of war, of sea, and of adventure. My special thanks are due to Professors Francis A rison, for advice, sympathy and assistant

#### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE NOTES.

B. = Bugge. C. = Cosijn. Gr. = Grein. Grdvtg. = Grundtvig. H. = Heyne. H. and S. = Harrison and Sharp. H.-So. = Heyne-Socin. K. = Kemble. Kl. = Kluge. M. = Müllenhoff. R. = Rieger. S. = Sievers. Sw. = Sweet. t. B. = ten Brink. Th. = Thorpe. W. = Wülcker.

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## GLOSSARY OF PROPER NAMES.

[The figures refer to the divisions of the poem in which the respective names occur. The large figures refer to fitts; the small, to lines in the fitts.]

Ælfhere. — A kinsman of Wiglaf. — 36 3.

Æschere. — Confidential friend of King Hrothgar. Elder brother of Yrmenlaf. Killed by Grendel. — 21 3; 30 89.

Beanstan. — Father of Breca. — 9 26.

Beowulf. — Son of Scyld, the founder of the dynasty of Scyldings. Father of Healfdene, and grandfather of Hrothgar. — 1 18; 2 1.

Beowulf. — The hero of the poem. Sprung from the stock of Geats, son of Ecgtheow. Brought up by his maternal grandfather Hrethel, and figuring in manhood as a devoted liegeman of his uncle Higelac. A hero from his youth. Has the strength of thirty men. Engages in a swimming-match with Breca. Goes to the help of Hrothgar against the monster Grendel. Vanquishes Grendel and his mother. Afterwards becomes king of the Geats. Late in life attempts to kill a fire-spewing dragon, and is slain. Is buried with great honors. His memorial mound. — 6 26; 7 2; 7 9; 9 3; 9 8; 12 28; 12 43; 23 1, etc.

Breca. — Beowulf's opponent in the famous swimming-match. — 98; 919; 921; 922.

Brondings. — A people ruled by Breca. — 9 23.

Brosinga mene. — A famous collar once owned by the Brosings. — 19 7.

Cain. — Progenitor of Grendel and other monsters. — 2 56; 20 11.

Dæghrefn. — A warrior of the Hugs, killed by Beowulf. — 35 40.

Danes. — Subjects of Scyld and his descendants, and hence often called Scyldings. Other names for them are Victory-Scyldings, Honor-Scyldings, Armor-Danes, Bright-Danes, East-Danes, West-Danes, North-Danes, South-Danes, Ingwins, Hrethmen. — 11; 21; 32; 514; 71, etc.

Ecglaf. — Father of Unferth, who taunts Beowulf. — 9 1.

Ecgtheow. — Father of Beowulf, the hero of the poem. A widely-known Wægmunding warrior. Marries Hrethel's daughter. After slaying Heatholaf, a Wylfing, he flees his country. — 7 3; 5 6; 8 4.

Ecgwela. — A king of the Danes before Scyld. — 25 60.

Elan. — Sister of Hrothgar, and probably wife of Ongentheow, king of the Swedes. — 2 10.
Eagle Cape. — A promontory in Geat-land, under which took place Beowulf's last encounter. — 41 87.

Eadgils. - Son of Ohthere and brother of Eanmund. - 34 2.

Eanmund. — Son of Ohthere and brother of Eadgils. The reference to these brothers is vague, and variously understood. Heyne supposes as follows: Raising a revolt against their father, they are obliged to leave Sweden. They go to the land of the Geats; with what intention, is not known, but probably to conquer and plunder. The Geatish king, Heardred, is slain by one of the brothers, probably Eanmund.—
36 10; 31 54 to 31 60; 33 66 to 34 6.

Eofor. — A Geatish hero who slays Ongentheow in war, and is rewarded by Hygelac with the hand of his only daughter. — 41 18; 41 48.

Eormenric. — A Gothic king, from whom Hama took away the famous Brosinga mene. — 19 9.

Eomser. — Son of Offa and Thrytho, king and queen of the Angles. — 28 69.

Finn. —King of the North-Frisians and the Jutes. Marries Hildeburg. At his court takes place the horrible slaughter in which the Danish general, Hnzef, fell. Later on, Finn himself is slain by Danish warriors. —17 18; 17 30; 17 44; 18 4; 18 23.

Fin-land. — The country to which Beowulf was driven by the currents in his swimming-match. — 10 22.

Fitela. — Son and nephew of King Sigemund, whose praises are sung in XIV. — 14 42; 14 53. Folcwalda. — Father of Finn. — 17 38.

Franks. — Introduced occasionally in referring to the death of Higelac. — 19 19; 40 21; 40 24.

Frisians. — A part of them are ruled by Finn. Some of them were engaged in the struggle in which Higelac was slain. — 17 20; 17 42; 17 52; 40 21.

Freaware. — Daughter of King Hrothgar. Married to Ingeld, a Heathobard prince. — 29 60; 30 32.

Froda. - King of the Heathobards, and father of Ingeld. - 29 62.

Garmund. - Father of Offa. - 28 71.

Geats, Geatmen. — The race to which the hero of the poem belongs. Also called Weder-Geats, or Weders, War-Geats, Sea-Geats. They are ruled by Hrethel, Hæthcyn, Higelac, and Beowulf. — 4 7; 7 4; 10 45; 11 8; 27 14; 28 8.

Gepids. - Named in connection with the Danes and Swedes. - 35 34.

Grendel. — A monster of the race of Cain. Dwells in the fens and moors. Is furiously envious when he hears sounds of joy in Hrothgar's palace. Causes the king untold agony for years. Is finally conquered by Beowulf, and dies of his wound. His hand and arm are hung up in Hrothgar's hall Heorot. His head is cut off by Beowulf when he goes down to fight with Grendel's mother. — 250; 31; 318; 819; 1117; 122; 1327; 153.

Guthlaf. - A Dane of Hnzef's party. - 18 24.

Half-Danes. — Branch of the Danes to which Hnæf belonged. — 17 19.

## Glossary of Proper Names.

Halga. - Surnamed the Good. Younger brother of Hrothgar. - 2 9.

Hama. — Takes the Brosinga mene from Eormenric. — 19 7.

Hæreth. - Father of Higelac's queen, Hygd. - 28 20; 29 18.

Hæthcyn. — Son of Hrethel and brother of Higelac. Kills his brother Herebeald accidentally. Is slain at Ravenswood, fighting against Ongentheow. — 34 43; 35 23; 40 32.

Helmings. — The race to which Queen Wealhtheow belonged. — 10 63.

Heming. — A kinsman of Garmund, perhaps nephew. — 28 54; 28 70.

Hengest. — A Danish leader. Takes command on the fall of Hnæf. — 17 83; 17 41.

Herebeald. — Eldest son of Hrethel, the Geatish king, and brother of Higelac. Killed by his younger brother Hæthcyn. — 34 43; 34 47.

Heremod. — A Danish king of a dynasty before the Scylding line. Was a source of great sorrow to his people. — 14 64; 25 59.

Hereric. — Referred to as uncle of Heardred, but otherwise unknown. — 31 co.

Hetwars. — Another name for the Franks. — 33 51.

Healfdene. — Grandson of Scyld and father of Hrothgar. Ruled the Danes long and well.
— 2 5; 4 1; 8 14.

Heardred. — Son of Higelac and Hygd, king and queen of the Geats. Succeeds his father, with Beowulf as regent. Is slain by the sons of Ohthere. — 31 56; 33 63; 33 75.

Heathobards. — Race of Lombards, of which Froda is king. After Froda falls in battle with the Danes, Ingeld, his son, marries Hrothgar's daughter, Freaware, in order to heal the feud. — 30 1; 30 6.

Heatholaf. — A Wylfing warrior slain by Beowulf's father. — 8 5.

Heathoremes. — The people on whose shores Breca is cast by the waves during his contest with Beowulf. — 9 21.

Heorogar. — Elder brother of Hrothgar, and surnamed 'Weoroda Ræswa,' Prince of the Troopers. — 2 9; 8 12.

Hereward. — Son of the above. — 31 17.

Heort, Heorot. — The great mead-hall which King Hrothgar builds. It is invaded by Grendel for twelve years. Finally cleansed by Beowulf, the Geat. It is called Heort on account of the hart-antiers which decorate it. — 2 25; 3 32; 3 52.

Hildeburg. — Wife of Finn, daughter of Hoce, and related to Hnæf, — probably his sister.
— 17 21; 18 34.

Hnæf. — Leader of a branch of the Danes called Half-Danes. Killed in the struggle at Finn's castle. — 17 19; 17 61.

Hondscio. — One of Beowulf's companions. Killed by Grendel just before Beowulf grappled with that monster. — 30 43.

Hoce. — Father of Hildeburg and probably of Hnæf. — 17 26.

Hrethel. - King of the Geats, father of Higelac, and grandfather of Beowulf. - 7 4; 34 39.

Hrethla. - Once used for Hrethel. - 7 82.

Hrethmen. — Another name for the Danes. — 7 73.

Hrethric. — Son of Hrothgar. — 18 65; 27 19.

\_\_\_\_unund. — Son of Hrothgar. — 18 65.

Hrothulf. — Probably a son of Halga, younger broth close intimacy in Hrothgar's palace. — 16 26;

Hrunting. — Unferth's sword, lent to Beowulf. — 22

Hugs. — A race in alliance with the Franks and Fris

Hun. - A Frisian warrior, probably general of the I

sword. — 18 19.

Hunferth. — Sometimes used for Unferth.

Hygelac, Higelac. — King of the Geats, uncle and lie

poem. — His second wife is the lovely Hygd, dat union is Heardred. Is slain in a war with the Hi Beowulf is regent, and afterwards king of the 29 21; 31 56.

Hygd. — Wife of Higelac, and daughter of Hæreth. T married Beowulf after she became a widow. — 28 3 Ingeld. — Son of the Heathobard king, Froda. Marrie

in order to reconcile the two peoples. — 29 62; 30 Ingwins. — Another name for the Danes. — 16 52; 20 68 Jutes. — Name sometimes applied to Finn's people. — 17

Lafing. — Name of a famous sword presented to Hengest Merewing. — A Frankish king, probably engaged in the — 40 29.

Nægling. — Beowulf's sword. — 36 76.

Offa. — King of the Angles, and son of Garmund. Marr.

strongly contrasted with Hygd. — 28 59; 28 66.

Ohthere. — Son of Ongentheow, king of the Swedes.

Eadgils. —40 35; 40 39.

Onela. — Brother of Ohthers

## Glossary of Proper Names.

Scyld. — Founder of the dynasty to which Hrothgar, his father, and grandfather belonged. He dies, and his body is put on a vessel, and set adrift. He goes from Daneland just as he had come to it — in a bark. — 1 4; 1 19; 1 27.

Scyldings. — The descendants of Scyld. They are also called Honor-Scyldings, Victory-Scyldings, War-Scyldings, etc. (See 'Danes,' above.) — 21; 71; 81.

Scylfings. — A Swedish royal line to which Wiglaf belonged. — 36 2.

Sigemund. — Son of Wæls, and uncle and father of Fitela. His struggle with a dragon is related in connection with Beowulf's deeds of prowess. — 14 38; 14 47.

Swerting. — Grandfather of Higelac, and father of Hrethel. — 19 11.

Swedes. — People of Sweden, ruled by the Scylfings. — 35 13.

Thrytho. — Wife of Offa, king of the Angles. Known for her fierce and unwomanly disposition. She is introduced as a contrast to the gentle Hygd, queen of Higelac. — 28 42; 28 56.

Unferth. — Son of Ecglaf, and seemingly a confidential courtier of Hrothgar. Taunts Beowulf for having taken part in the swimming-match. Lends Beowulf his sword when he goes to look for Grendel's mother. In the MS. sometimes written Hunferth. — 9 1; 18 41.

Wæls. - Father of Sigemund. - 14 60.

Wægmunding. — A name occasionally applied to Wiglaf and Beowulf, and perhaps derived from a common ancestor, Wægmund. — 36 6; 38 61.

Weders. — Another name for Geats or Wedergeats.

Wayland. — A fabulous smith mentioned in this poem and in other old Teutonic literature.
— 7 83.

Wondels. — The people of Wulfgar, Hrothgar's messenger and retainer. (Perhaps = Vandals.) — 6 30.

Wealhtheow. — Wife of Hrothgar. Her queenly courtesy is well shown in the poem. — 10 55.

Weohstan, or Wihstan. - A Wægmunding, and father of Wiglaf. - 36 1.

Whale's Ness. —A prominent promontory, on which Beowulf's mound was built. — 38 52; 42 76.

Wiglaf. — Son of Wihstan, and related to Beowulf. He remains faithful to Beowulf in the fatal struggle with the fire-drake. Would rather die than leave his lord in his dire emergency. — 36 1; 36 3; 36 28.

Wonred. — Father of Wulf and Eofor. —41 20; 41 26.

Wulf.—Son of Wonred. Engaged in the battle between Higelac's and Ongentheow's forces, and had a hand-to-hand fight with Ongentheow himself. Ongentheow disables him, and is thereupon slain by Eofor.—41 19; 41 29.

Wulfgar. — Lord of the Wendels, and retainer of Hrothgar. — 6 18; 6 30.

Wylfings. — A people to whom belonged Heatholaf, who was slain by Ecgtheow. — 8 6; 8 16. Yrmenlaf. — Younger brother of Æschere, the hero whose death grieved Hrothgar so deeply. — 21 4.



## LIST OF WORDS AND PHRASES

#### NOT IN GENERAL USE.

ATHELING. - Prince, nobleman.

BAIRN. - Son, child.

BARROW. — Mound, rounded hill, funeral-mound.

BATTLE-SARK. - Armor.

BEAKER. - Cup, drinking-vessel.

BEGEAR. - Prepare.

BIGHT. - Bay, sea.

BILL. - Sword.

Boss. - Ornamental projection.

BRACTEATE. — A round ornament on a neck-

BRAND. - Sword.

BURN. - Stream.

BURNIE. - Armor.

CARLE. - Man, hero.

EARL. - Nobleman, any brave man.

EKE. — Also.

EMPRISE. — Enterprise, undertaking.

ERST. - Formerly.

Erst-worthy. — Worthy for a long time past.

Fain. — Glad.

FERRY. - Bear, carry.

FEY. — Fated, doomed.

FLOAT. - Vessel, ship.

Foin. — To lunge (Shaks.).

GLORY OF KINGS. — God.

GREWSOME. — Cruel, fierce.

HEFT. — Handle, hilt; used by synecdoche for 'sword.'

HELM. - Helmet, protector.

HENCHMAN. - Retainer, vassal.

HIGHT. — Am (was) named.

HOLM. — Ocean, curved surface of the sea.

HIMSEEMED. - (It) seemed to him.

LIEF. - Dear, valued.

MERE. — Sea; in compounds, 'mere-ways,'

'mere-currents,' etc.

MICKLE. - Much.

NATHLESS. - Nevertheless.

NAZE. - Edge (nose).

NESS. - Edge.

NICKER. - Sea-beast.

QUIT, QUITE. - Requite.

RATHE. - Quickly.

REAVE. - Bereave, deprive.

SAIL-ROAD. - Sea.

SETTLE. — Seat, bench.

SKINKER. — One who pours.

SOOTHLY. - Truly.

SWINGE. - Stroke, blow.

TARGE, TARGET. — Shield.

THROUGHLY. - Thoroughly.

Told. — Counted.

UNCANNY. - Ill-featured, grizzly.

UNNETHE. - Difficult.

WAR-SPEED. - Success in war.

WEB. - Tapestry (that which is 'woven').

WEEDED. — Clad (cf. widow's weeds).

WEEN. - Suppose, imagine.

WEIRD. - Fate, Providence.

WHILOM. - At times, formerly, often.

WIELDER. — Ruler. Often used of God:

also in compounds, as 'Wielder of Glory,'

'Wielder of Worship.'

WIGHT. - Creature.

WOLD. - Plain, extended surface.

Wor. - Knows.

YOUNKER. - Youth.

## BEOWULF.

I.

#### THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SCYLD.

Lo! the Spear-Danes' glory through splendid achievements
The folk-kings' former fame we have heard of,
How princes displayed then their prowess-in-battle.
Oft Scyld the Scefing from scathers in numbers
From many a people their mead-benches tore.
Since first he found him friendless and wretched

- From many a people their mead-benches tore.

  Since first he found him friendless and wretched,
  The earl had had terror: comfort he got for it,
  Waked 'neath the welkin, world-honor gained,
  Till all his neighbors o'er sea were compelled to
- Bow to his bidding and bring him their tribute:
  An excellent atheling! After was borne him
  A son and heir, young in his dwelling,
  Whom God-Father sent to solace the people.
  He had marked the misery malice had caused them,
- <sup>1</sup> That reaved of their rulers they wretched had erstwhile <sup>2</sup>
  Long been afflicted. The Lord, in requital,
  Wielder of Glory, with world-honor blessed him.
  Famed was Beowulf, far spread the glory
  Of Scyld's great son in the lands of the Danemen.

The famous race of Spear-Danes.

Scyld, their mighty king, in honor of whom they are often called Scyldings. He is the great-grandfather of Hrothgar, so prominent in the poem.

A son is born to him, who receives the name of Beowulf—a name afterwards made so famous by the hero of the poem.

<sup>1</sup> For the 'beet' of verse 15, Sievers suggests 'bá' (= which). If this be accepted, the sentence 'He had . . . afflicted' will read: He (i.e. God) had perceived the malice-caused sorrow which they, lordless, had formerly long endured.

<sup>2</sup> For 'aldor-léase' (15) Gr. suggested 'aldor-ceare': He perceived their distress, that they formerly had suffered life-sorrow a long while.

ocyia then departed to the All-Father's keep ppointed by Warlike to wend him; away then they bare To the flood of the current, his fond-loving c 30 As himself he had bidden, while the friend o Word-sway wielded, and the well-loved land-Long did rule them.1 The ring-stemmed ver Bark of the atheling, lay there at anchor, Icy in glimmer and eager for sailing: The beloved leader laid they down there, own re-35 his body is Giver of rings, on the breast of the vessel, a vessel The famed by the mainmast. A many of jew fted sea-Of fretted embossings, from far-lands brought Was placed near at hand then; and heard I 1 40 That a folk ever furnished a float more superb With weapons of warfare, weeds for the battle, Bills and burnies; on his bosom sparkled Many a jewel that with him must travel

Excellent folk-gems, than others had given hin

\*\*Dane\*\*Mho when first he was born outward did send
Lone on the main, the merest of infants:

And a gold-fashioned standard they stretched

On the flush of the flood afar on the current.

45 And favors no fewer they furnished him soothly

<sup>1</sup> A very difficult passage. 'Ahte' (21) han -- ..

## Beowulf.

50 High o'er his head, let the holm-currents bear him, Seaward consigned him: sad was their spirit, Their mood very mournful. Men are not able Soothly to tell us, they in halls who reside,¹ Heroes under heaven, to what haven he hied.

No one knows whither the boat drifted.

#### II.

#### SCYLD'S SUCCESSORS. — HROTHGAR'S GREAT MEAD-HALL.

In the boroughs then Beowulf, bairn of the Scyldings, Belovèd land-prince, for long-lasting season Was famed mid the folk (his father departed, The prince from his dwelling), till afterward sprang Great-minded Healfdene; the Danes in his lifetime He graciously governed, grim-mooded, agèd. Four bairns of his body born in succession Woke in the world, war-troopers' leader Heorogar, Hrothgar, and Halga the good; Heard I that Elan was Ongentheow's consort, The well-beloved bedmate of the War-Scylfing leader. Then glory in battle to Hrothgar was given, Waxing of war-fame, that willingly kinsmen

Obeyed his bidding, till the boys grew to manhood,

his father Scyld.

Beowulf succeeds

Healfdene's birth.

He has three sons
— one of them,
Hrothgar — and a
daughter named
Elan. Hrothgar
becomes a mighty
king.

He is eager to build a great hall in which he may feast his retainers.

To urge his folk to found a great building,
A mead-hall grander than men of the era
Ever had heard of, and in it to share
With young and old all of the blessings
The Lord had allowed him, save life and retainers.

15 A numerous band. It burned in his spirit

The Lord had allowed him, save life and retainers Then the work I find afar was assigned

<sup>1</sup> The reading of the H.-So. text has been quite closely followed; but some eminent scholars read 'séle-rædenne' for 'sele-rædende.' If that be adopted, the passage will read: *Men cannot tell us, indeed, the order of Fate, etc.* 'Sele-rædende' has two things to support it: (1) v. 1347; (2) it affords a parallel to 'men' in v. 50.

...... at panquet. Towered the hall up High and horn-crested, huge between antler-30 It battle-waves bided, the blasting fire-demoi Ere long then from hottest hatred must swore Arise for a woman's husband and father. Then the mighty war-spirit 1 endured for a se-Bore it bitterly, he who bided in darkness, 35 That light-hearted laughter loud in the buildi Greeted him daily; there was dulcet harp-mu Clear song of the singer. He said that was a To tell from of old earthmen's beginnings. That Father Almighty earth had created, The winsome wold that the water encircleth, Set exultingly the sun's and the moon's beams To lavish their lustre on land-folk and races, And earth He embellished in all her regions With limbs and leaves; life He bestowed too 45 On all the kindreds that live under heaven. So blessed with abundance, brimming with joy:

nater Gren-

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ome old

of the

horrible

1

A foe in the hall-building: this horrible strange
50 Was Grendel entitled, the march-stepper famou
Who dwelt in the moor-fens, the marsh and the man-mooded being about for a straight for

Dog them with deeds of direfullest malice.

The warriors abided, till a certain one gan to

## Beowulf.

In the land of the giants, when the Lord and Creator Had banned him and branded. For that bitter murder,

- The killing of Abel, all-ruling Father
  The kindred of Cain crushed with His vengeance;
  In the feud He rejoiced not, but far away drove him
  From kindred and kind, that crime to atone for,
  Meter of Justice. Thence ill-favored creatures,
- 60 Elves and giants, monsters of ocean, Came into being, and the giants that longtime Grappled with God; He gave them requital.

Cain is referred to as a progenitor of Grendel, and of monsters in general.

5

#### III.

#### GRENDEL THE MURDERER.

When the sun was sunken, he set out to visit
The lofty hall-building, how the Ring-Danes had used it
For beds and benches when the banquet was over.
Then he found there reposing many a noble

- 5 Asleep after supper; sorrow the heroes,¹
  Misery knew not. The monster of evil
  Greedy and cruel tarried but little,
  Fell and frantic, and forced from their slumbers
  Thirty of thanemen; thence he departed
- Leaping and laughing, his lair to return to,
  With surfeit of slaughter sallying homeward.
  In the dusk of the dawning, as the day was just breaking,
  Was Grendel's prowess revealed to the warriors:
  Then, his meal-taking finished, a moan was uplifted,
- Morning-cry mighty. The man-ruler famous, The long-worthy atheling, sat very woful, Suffered great sorrow, sighed for his liegemen,

Grendel attacks the sleeping heroes.

He drags off thirty of them, and deyours them.

A cry of agony goes up when Grendel's horrible deed is fully realized.

<sup>1</sup> The translation is based on 'weras,' adopted by H.-So.—K. and Th. read 'wera' and, arranging differently, render 119(2)-120: They knew not sorrow, the wretchedness of man, aught of misfortune.—For 'unhælo' (120) R. suggests 'unfælo.': The uncanny creature, greedy and cruel, etc.

-- mu muraer; tney π

He was easy to find then who other

- A pleasanter place of repose in the A bed in the bowers. Then was b Told him truly by token apparent The hall-thane's hatred: he held hi Further and faster who the foeman
- 30 So ruled he and strongly strove aga Lone against all men, till empty upto
  - The choicest of houses. Long was t Twelve-winters' time torture suffered
- The friend of the Scyldings, every aff Endless agony; hence it after becan Certainly known to the children of many
  - Sadly in measures, that long against F. Grendel struggled: his grudges he Murderous malice, many a winter.
- <sup>3</sup> Life-woe to lift from no liegeman at The men of the Dane-folk, for money No counsellor needed count for a more

<sup>1</sup> S. rearranges and translates: So he ruled and all, till the noblest of buildings stood useless (it wa time: the friend of the Scyldings suffered distress,

For 'syoban,' B. suggests 'sfrom'

King Hrothgar's

pense last twelve

agony and sus-

vears.

## Beowulf.

7

On handsome amends at the hands of the murderer;
The monster of evil fiercely did harass,
The ill-planning death-shade, both elder and younger,
Trapping and tricking them. He trod every night then
The mist-covered moor-fens; men do not know where
Witches and wizards wander and ramble.

Grendel is unremitting in his persecutions.

50 So the foe of mankind many of evils
Grievous injuries, often accomplished,
Horrible hermit; Heort he frequented,
Gem-bedecked palace, when night-shades had fallen
(Since God did oppose him, not the throne could he touch,1

God is against the monster.

The light-flashing jewel, love of Him knew not).

Twas a fearful affliction to the friend of the Scyldings
Soul-crushing sorrow. Not seldom in private
Sat the king in his council; conference held they
What the braves should determine 'gainst terrors unlooked for.

The king and his council deliberate in vain.

60 At the shrines of their idols often they promised Gifts and offerings, earnestly prayed they
The devil from hell would help them to lighten
Their people's oppression. Such practice they used then,
Hope of the heathen; hell they remembered

They invoke the aid of their gods.

In innermost spirit, God they knew not, Judge of their actions, All-wielding Ruler, No praise could they give the Guardian of Heaven, The Wielder of Glory. Woe will be his who Through furious hatred his spirit shall drive to

The true God they do not know.

The clutch of the fire, no comfort shall look for, Wax no wiser; well for the man who, Living his life-days, his Lord may face And find defence in his Father's embrace!

<sup>1</sup> Of this difficult passage the following interpretations among others are given: (1) Though Grendel has frequented Heorot as a demon, he could not become ruler of the Danes, on account of his hostility to God. (2) Hrothgar was much grieved that Grendel had not appeared before his throne to receive presents. (3) He was not permitted to devastate the hall, on account of the Creator; i.e. God wished to make his visit fatal to him. —Ne... wisse (169) W. renders: Nor had he any desire to do so; 'his' being obj. gen. = danach.

....., ..... and corns to SC Too crushing the sorrow that can

Beowulf, the Geat, hero of the poem, hears of Hrothgar's sorrow, and resolves to go to his assistance.

With fourteen carefully chosen com-

panions, he sets out for Dane-land.

Loathsome and lasting the life-gr Greatest of night-woes. So Hige Good amid Geatmen, of Grendel' Heard in his home: 1 of heroes th He was stoutest and strongest, stu He bade them prepare him a barl

He said he the war-king would see The folk-leader noble, since he ne For the perilous project prudent c

Chided him little, though loving h They egged the brave atheling, au

The excellent knight from the folk Had liegemen selected, likest to pi

Trustworthy warriors; with fourtee The vessel he looked for; a liegem

20 A sea-crafty man, the bounds of the Fast the days fleeted; the float was The craft by the cliff. Clomb to th

Well-equipped warriors: the wave-The sea on the sand; soldiers then

25 On the breast of the vessel bright-s Handsome war-armor; heroes outs Warmen the wood-ship, on its wish-



The foamy-necked floater fanned by the breeze, Likest a bird, glided the waters,

Till twenty and four hours thereafter
The twist-stemmed vessel had traveled such distance
That the sailing-men saw the sloping embankments,
The sea-cliffs gleaming, precipitous mountains,
Nesses enormous: they were nearing the limits

The men of the Weders clomb to the mainland,
Fastened their vessel (battle-weeds rattled,
War-burnies clattered); the Wielder they thanked
That the ways o'er the waters had waxen so gentle.

Then well from the cliff-edge the guard of the Scyldings Who the sea-cliffs should see to, saw o'er the gangway Brave ones bearing beauteous targets,

Armor all ready; anxiously thought he,

Musing and wondering what men were approaching.

45 High on his horse then Hrothgar's retainer
Turned him to coastward, mightily brandished
His lance in his hands, questioned with boldness:
"Who are ye men here, mail-covered warriors
Clad in your corslets, come thus a-driving

50 A high-riding ship o'er the shoals of the waters,

2 And hither 'neath helmets have hied o'er the ocean?

The vessel sails like a bird.

In twenty-four hours they reach the shores of Hrothgar's dominions.

They are hailed by the Danish coastguard.

His challenge.

1 'Eoletes' (224) is marked with a (?) by H.-So.: our rendering simply follows his conjecture. — Other conjectures as to 'eolet' are: (1) voyage; (2) toil, labor; (3) hasty journey.

<sup>2</sup> The lacuna of the MS. at this point has been supplied by various conjectures. The reading adopted by H.So. has been rendered in the above translation. W., like H.-So. makes 'ic' the beginning of a new sentence; but, for 'helmas bæron,' he reads 'hringed-stefnan.' This has the advantage of giving a parallel to 'brontne céol' instead of a kenning for 'go.'—B. puts the (?) after 'holmas,' and begins a new sentence at the middle of the line. Translate: What warriors are ye, clad in armor, who have thus come bringing the foaming vessel over the water-way, hither over the seas? For some time on the wall I have been coast-guard, etc. S. endorses most of what B. says, but leaves out 'on the wall' in the last sentence. If W.'s 'hringed-stefnan' be accepted, change line 51 above to, A ring-stemmed vessel hither o'ersea?

neowuli's appearance.

Of earls o'er the earth have I had

Than is one of your number, a had
No low-ranking fellow adorned But launching them little, unless And striking appearance. Ere yas treacherous spies to the land compartment of And farther fare, I fully must know that race ye belong to. Ye faras Sea-faring sailors, my simple opini Hear ye and hearken: haste is more than the search of the sailors.

Plainly to tell me what place ye as

V.

#### THE GEATS REACH

Beowulf courteously replies.

We are Geats.

My father Ecgtheow was wellknown in his day. The chief of the strangers rendered War-troopers' leader, and word-tre "We are sprung from the lineage of And Higelac's hearth-friends. To My father was known, a noble head Ecgtheow titled; many a winter He lived with the people, ere he pooled from his dwelling; each of the

## Beowulf.

11

Folk-troop's defender: be free in thy counsels!

To the noble one bear we a weighty commission,

The helm of the Danemen; we shall hide, I ween,

- Naught of our message. Thou know'st if it happen, As we soothly heard say, that some savage despoiler, Some hidden pursuer, on nights that are murky By deeds very direful 'mid the Danemen exhibits Hatred unheard of, horrid destruction
- And the falling of dead. From feelings least selfish I am able to render counsel to Hrothgar,
  How he, wise and worthy, may worst the destroyer,
  If the anguish of sorrow should ever be lessened,
  Comfort come to him, and care-waves grow cooler,
- 25 Or ever hereafter he agony suffer And troublous distress, while towereth upward The handsomest of houses high on the summit." Bestriding his stallion, the strand-watchman answered, The doughty retainer: "The difference surely
- Twixt words and works, the warlike shield-bearer
   Who judgeth wisely well shall determine.
   This band, I hear, beareth no malice
   To the prince of the Scyldings. Pass ye then onward
   With weapons and armor. I shall lead you in person;
- To my war-trusty vassals command I shall issue
  To keep from all injury your excellent vessel,
  Your fresh-tarred craft, 'gainst every opposer
  Close by the sea-shore, till the curved-neckèd bark shall
  Waft back again the well-beloved hero
- 40 O'er the way of the water to Weder dominions. To warrior so great 'twill be granted sure In the storm of strife to stand secure." Onward they fared then (the vessel lay quiet, The broad-bosomed bark was bound by its cable,

Is it true that a monster is slaying Danish heroes?

I can help your king to free himself from this horrible creature.

The coast-guard reminds Beowulf that it is easier to say than to do.

I am satisfied of your good intentions, and shall lead you to the palace. Your boat shall be well cared for during your stay here.

He again compliments Beowulf.

<sup>1</sup> 'Edwendan' (280) B. takes to be the subs. 'edwenden' (cf. 1775); and 'bisigu' he takes as gen. sing., limiting 'edwenden': If reparation for sorrows is ever to come. This is supported by t. B.

The coast-guard, having discharged his duty, bids them God-speed.

Or nails under heaven which the
Its lustre enlightened lands with
Then the battle-brave hero show

Court of the bold ones, that they
Might fare on their journey; the
Turning his courser, quoth as he
"Tis time I were faring; Father
Grant you His grace, and give you

Safe on your mission! To the se
'Gainst hostile warriors as warden

VI.

#### BEOWULF INTRODUCES HIMSE

The highway glistened with many-l A by-path led the liegemen togethe Firm and hand-locked the war-bu The ring-sword radiant rang 'mid t' As the party was approaching the I In warlike equipments. 'Gainst th Their wide-fashioned war-shields tl

They set their arms and armor against the wall.

<sup>1</sup> Combining the emendations of B. and images glistened ... brillians August 1



## Beowulf.

Battle-shields sturdy; benchward they turned then; Their battle-sarks rattled, the gear of the heroes;

10 The lances stood up then, all in a cluster, The arms of the seamen, ashen-shafts mounted With edges of iron: the armor-clad troopers Were decked with weapons. Then a proud-mooded hero Asked of the champions questions of lineage: 15 "From what borders bear ye your battle-shields plated, Gilded and gleaming, your gray-colored burnies, Helmets with visors and heap of war-lances?— To Hrothgar the king I am servant and liegeman. 'Mong folk from far-lands found I have never 20 Men so many of mien more courageous. I ween that from valor, nowise as outlaws, But from greatness of soul ye sought for King Hrothgar." Then the strength-famous earlman answer rendered, The proud-mooded Wederchief replied to his question, 25 Hardy 'neath helmet: "Higelac's mates are we; Beowulf hight I. To the bairn of Healfdene, The famous folk-leader, I freely will tell To thy prince my commission, if pleasantly hearing He'll grant we may greet him so gracious to all men." 30 Wulfgar replied then (he was prince of the Wendels, His boldness of spirit was known unto many, His prowess and prudence): "The prince of the Scyldings, The friend-lord of Danemen, I will ask of thy journey,

A Danish hero asks them whence and why they are come.

He expresses no little admiration for the strangers.

Beowulf replies.

We are Higelac's table-companions, and bear an important commission to your prince.

Wulfgar, the thane, says that he will go and ask Hrothgar whether he will see the strangers.

1 Gr. and others translate 'unhar' by 'bald': old and bald.

The giver of rings, as thou urgest me do it,

<sup>1</sup>Old and hoary, his earlmen attending him;

What answer the good one mindeth to render me."

He turned then hurriedly where Hrothgar was sitting,

The strength-famous went till he stood at the shoulder
Of the lord of the Danemen, of courteous thanemen
The custom he minded. Wulfgar addressed then
His friendly liegelord: "Folk of the Geatmen

35 The folk-chief famous, and inform thee early

........ ,- Or caris to be honored; sur Who headed the heroes hith

#### HROTHGAR A

Hrothgar remembers Beowulf as a youth, and also remembers his father.

Beowulf is reported to have the strength of thirty men.

God hath sent him to our rescue.

Hrothgar answered, helm of t "I remember this man as the His father long dead now was Him Hrethel the Geatman gra 5 One only daughter; his battle Is come but now, sought a tru Seafaring sailors asserted it the Who valuable gift-gems of the As peace-offering thither, that 10 Has in his hand, the hero-in-b The holy Creator usward sent l To West-Dane warriors, I ween 'Gainst Grendel's grimness gra I shall give to the good one git To see assembled this circle of

15 Hasten to bid them hither to s Tell them ......

Wulfgar invites the

strangers in.

15

Wulfgar went then, this word-message shouted:

"My victorious liegelord bade me to tell you,
The East-Danes' atheling, that your origin knows he,
And o'er wave-billows wafted ye welcome are hither,
Valiant of spirit. Ye straightway may enter
Clad in corslets, cased in your helmets,

25 To see King Hrothgar. Here let your battle-boards, Wood-spears and war-shafts, await your conferring." The mighty one rose then, with many a liegeman, An excellent thane-group; some there did await them, And as bid of the brave one the battle-gear guarded.

Together they hied them, while the hero did guide them, 'Neath Heorot's roof; the high-minded went then Sturdy 'neath helmet till he stood in the building. Beowulf spake (his burnie did glisten, His armor seamed over by the art of the craftsman):

35 "Hail thou, Hrothgar! I am Higelac's kinsman And vassal forsooth; many a wonder I dared as a stripling. The doings of Grendel, In far-off fatherland I fully did know of: Sea-farers tell us, this hall-building standeth,

40 Excellent edifice, empty and useless
To all the earlmen after evenlight's glimmer
'Neath heaven's bright hues hath hidden its glory.
This my earls then urged me, the most excellent of them,
Carles very clever, to come and assist thee,

45 Folk-leader Hrothgar; fully they knew of
The strength of my body. Themselves they beheld me
When I came from the contest, when covered with gore
Foes I escaped from, where five 1 I had bound,

Beowulf salutes Hrothgar, and then proceeds to boast of his youthful achievements.

His fight with the nickers.

<sup>1</sup> For 420 (b) and 421 (a), B. suggests: Þær ic (on) fifelgeban yöde eotena cyn = where I in the ocean destroyed the eoten-race. — t. B. accepts B.'s "brilliant" 'fifelgeban,' omits 'on,' emends 'cyn' to 'hám,' arranging: Þær ic fifelgeban yöde, eotena hám = where I desolated the ocean, the home of the eotens. — This would be better but for changing 'cyn' to 'hám.' — I suggest: Þær ic fifelgeband (cf. nhd. Bande) yöde, eotena cyn = where I conquered the monster band, the race of the eotens. This makes no change except to read 'fifel' for 'fife.'

He intends to fight Grendel unaided.

50 The nickers by night, bore numberless sorrows, The Weders avenged (woes had they suffered) Enemies ravaged; alone now with Grendel I shall manage the matter, with the monster of evil, The giant, decide it. Thee I would therefore 55 Beg of thy bounty, Bright-Danish chieftain, Lord of the Scyldings, this single petition: Not to refuse me, defender of warriors, Friend-lord of folks, so far have I sought thee, That I may unaided, my earlmen assisting me. 60 This brave-mooded war-band, purify Heorot. I have heard on inquiry, the horrible creature From veriest rashness recks not for weapons; I this do scorn then, so be Higelac gracious, My liegelord beloved, lenient of spirit, 65 To bear a blade or a broad-fashioned target, A shield to the onset; only with hand-grip

The giant-race wasted, in the waters destroying

Since the monster uses no weapons,

I, too, shall disdain to use any.

Should be crush me, he will eat my companions as he has eaten thy thanes.

The foe I must grapple, fight for my life then,
Foeman with foeman; he fain must rely on
The doom of the Lord whom death layeth hold of.
I ween he will wish, if he win in the struggle,
To eat in the war-hall earls of the Geat-folk,
Boldly to swallow 1 them, as of yore he did often
The best of the Hrethmen! Thou needest not trouble
A head-watch to give me; 2 he will have me dripping

1 'Unforhte' (444) is much disputed. — H.-So. wavers between adj. and adv. Gr. and B. take it as an adv. modifying etan: Will eat the Geats fearlessly. — Kl. considers this reading absurd, and proposes 'anforhte' = timid. — Understanding 'unforhte' as an adj. has this advantage, viz. that it gives a parallel to 'Geátena leóde': but to take it as an adv. is more natural. Furthermore, to call the Geats 'brave' might, at this point, seem like an implied thrust at the Danes, so long helpless; while to call his own men 'timid' would be befouling his own nest.

<sup>2</sup> For 'head-watch,' cf. H.-So. notes and cf. v. 2910. — Th. translates: Then will not need my head to hide (i.e., thou wilt have no occasion to bury me, as Grendel will devour me whole). — Simrock imagines a kind of dead-watch. —

In case of my defeat, thou wilt not have the trouble of burying me.

17

75 And dreary with gore, if death overtake me, 1
Will bear me off bleeding, biting and mouthing me,
The hermit will eat me, heedless of pity,
Marking the moor-fens; no more wilt thou need then
Find me my food. 2 If I fall in the battle,

Should I fall, send my armor to my lord, King Higelac.

80 Send to Higelac the armor that serveth
To shield my bosom, the best of equipments,
Richest of ring-mails; 'tis the relic of Hrethla,
The work of Wayland. Goes Weird as she must go!"

Weird is supreme.

#### VIII.

#### HROTHGAR AND BEOWULF. - Continued.

Hrothgar discoursed, helm of the Scyldings:

"To defend our folk and to furnish assistance,<sup>3</sup>

Thou soughtest us hither, good friend Beowulf.

The fiercest of feuds thy father engaged in,

Heatholaf killed he in hand-to-hand conflict

'Mid Wilfingish warriors; then the Wederish people

For fear of a feud were forced to disown him.

Hrothgar responds.

Thence flying he fled to the folk of the South-Danes,

Dr. H. Wood suggests: Thou will not have to bury so much as my head (for Grendel will be a thorough undertaker) — grim humor.

Reminiscences of Beowulf's father, Ecgtheow.

- Grendel will be a thorough undertaker),—grim humor.

  1 S. proposes a colon after 'nime's' (l. 447). This would make no essen-
- <sup>1</sup> S. proposes a colon after 'nime's' (l. 447). This would make no essential change in the translation.

  <sup>2</sup> Owing to the vagueness of 'feorme' (451) this passage is variously trans-
- <sup>2</sup> Owing to the vagueness of 'feorme' (451), this passage is variously translated. In our translation, H.-So.'s glossary has been quite closely followed. This agrees substantially with B.'s translation (P, and B. XII. 87). R. translates: Thou needst not take care longer as to the consumption of my dead body. 'Lic' is also a crux here, as it may mean living body or dead body.
- <sup>8</sup> B. and S. reject the reading given in H.-So., and suggested by Grtvg. B. suggests for 457-458:

waere-ryhtum þú, wine min Béowulf, and for ar-stafum úsic sóhtest.

This means: From the obligations of clientage, my friend Beowulf, and for assistance thou hast sought us. — This gives coherence to Hrothgar's opening remarks in VIII., and also introduces a new motive for Beowulf's coming to Hrothgar's aid.

The race of the Scyldings, o'er the roll of the waters;
I had lately begun then to govern the Danemen,
The hoard-seat of heroes held in my youth,
Rich in its jewels: dead was Heregar,
My kinsman and elder had earth-joys forsaken,
Healfdene his bairn. He was better than I am!

That feud thereafter for a fee I compounded;
O'er the weltering waters to the Wilfings I sent
Ornaments old; oaths did he swear me.
It pains me in spirit to any to tell it,
What grief in Heorot Grendel hath caused me,

What grief in Heorot Grendel hath caused me,
What horror unlooked-for, by hatred unceasing.
Waned is my war-band, wasted my hall-troop;
Weird hath offcast them to the clutches of Grendel.

God can easily hinder the scather From deeds so direful. Oft drunken with beer

O'er the ale-vessel promised warriors in armor
They would willingly wait on the wassailing-benches
A grapple with Grendel, with grimmest of edges.

Then this mead-hall at morning with murder was reeking,
The building was bloody at breaking of daylight,

The bench-deals all flooded, dripping and bloodied, The folk-hall was gory: I had fewer retainers, Dear-beloved warriors, whom death had laid hold of. Sit at the feast now, thy intents unto heroes,<sup>1</sup> Thy victor-fame show, as thy spirit doth urge thee!"

For the men of the Geats then together assembled, In the beer-hall blithesome a bench was made ready; There warlike in spirit they went to be seated, Proud and exultant. A liegeman did service,

Sit down to the feast, and give us comfort.

A bench is made ready for Beowulf and his party.

Hrothgar recounts

horrors of Grendel's persecutions.

to Beowulf the

My thanes have

made many boasts.

but have not exe-

cuted them.

<sup>1</sup> Sit now at the feast, and disclose thy purposes to the victorious heroes, as thy spirit urges.—Kl. reaches the above translation by erasing the comma after 'meoto' and reading 'sige-hréðsecgum.'—There are other and bolder emendations and suggestions. Of these the boldest is to regard 'meoto' as a verb (imperative), and read 'on sæl': Think upon gayety, etc.—All the renderings are unsatisfactory, the one given in our translation involving a zeugma.



Who a beaker embellished bore with decorum,

And gleaming-drink poured. The gleeman sang whilom
Hearty in Heorot; there was heroes' rejoicing,
A numerous war-band of Weders and Danemen.

The gleeman sings. The heroes all rejoice together.

#### IX.

#### UNFERTH TAUNTS BEOWULF.

Unferth spoke up, Ecglaf his son,
Who sat at the feet of the lord of the Scyldings,
Opened the jousting (the journey of Beowulf,
Sea-farer doughty, gave sorrow to Unferth
And greatest chagrin, too, for granted he never

- That any man else on earth should attain to, Gain under heaven, more glory than he): "Art thou that Beowulf with Breca did struggle, On the wide sea-currents at swimming contended,
- Where to humor your pride the ocean ye tried,
   From vainest vaunting adventured your bodies
   In care of the waters? And no one was able
   Nor lief nor loth one, in the least to dissuade you
   Your difficult voyage; then ye ventured a-swimming,
- The mere-ways measured, mixing and stirring them,
  Glided the ocean; angry the waves were,
  With the weltering of winter. In the water's possession,
  Ye toiled for a seven-night; he at swimming outdid thee,
- In strength excelled thee. Then early at morning
  On the Heathoremes' shore the holm-currents tossed him,
  Sought he thenceward the home of his fathers,
  Beloved of his liegemen, the land of the Brondings,
  The peace-castle pleasant, where a people he wielded,

<sup>1</sup> It has been plausibly suggested that 'sίδ' (in 501 and in 353) means 'arrival.' If so, translate the bracket: (the arrival of Beowulf, the brave seafarer, was a source of great chagrin to Unferth, etc.).

Unferth, a thane of Hrothgar, is jealous of Beowulf, and undertakes to twit him.

Did you take part in a swimmingmatch with Breca?

'Twas mere folly that actuated you both to risk your lives on the ocean. Breca outdid you entirely.

Much more will Grendel outdo you, if you vie with him in prowess. 30

Beowulf retaliates.

O friend Unferth, you are fuddled with beer, and cannot talk coherently. 35

We simply kept an engagement made in early life.

He could not excel me, and I would not excel him.

After five days the currents separated us.

A horrible seabeast attacked me, but I slew him.

25 Had borough and jewels. The pledge that he made thee The son of Beanstan hath soothly accomplished. Then I ween thou wilt find thee less fortunate issue, Though ever triumphant in onset of battle. A grim grappling, if Grendel thou darest For the space of a night near-by to wait for!" Beowulf answered, offspring of Ecgtheow: "My good friend Unferth, sure freely and wildly, Thou fuddled with beer of Breca hast spoken, Hast told of his journey! A fact I allege it, That greater strength in the waters I had then, Ills in the ocean, than any man else had. We made agreement as the merest of striplings Promised each other (both of us then were Younkers in years) that we yet would adventure Out on the ocean; it all we accomplished. While swimming the sea-floods, sword-blade unscabbarded Boldly we brandished, our bodies expected To shield from the sharks. He sure was unable To swim on the waters further than I could. More swift on the waves, nor would I from him go. Then we two companions stayed in the ocean Five nights together, till the currents did part us, The weltering waters, weathers the bleakest, And nethermost night, and the north-wind whistled 50 Fierce in our faces; fell were the billows. The mere fishers' mood was mightily ruffled: And there against foemen my firm-knotted corslet, Hand-jointed, hardy, help did afford me; My battle-sark braided, brilliantly gilded, Lay on my bosom. To the bottom then dragged me, A hateful fiend-scather, seized me and held me, Grim in his grapple: 'twas granted me, nathless,

To pierce the monster with the point of my weapon,

60 The mighty mere-creature by means of my hand-blow.

My obedient blade; battle offcarried

#### X.

#### BEOWULF SILENCES UNFERTH. - GLEE IS HIGH.

"So ill-meaning enemies often did cause me Sorrow the sorest, I served them, in quittance, With my dear-loved sword, as in sooth it was fitting; They missed the pleasure of feasting abundantly,

5 Ill-doers evil, of eating my body,
Of surrounding the banquet deep in the ocean;
But wounded with edges early at morning
They were stretched a-high on the strand of the ocean,
Put to sleep with the sword, that sea-going travelers

No longer thereafter were hindered from sailing The foam-dashing currents. Came a light from the east, God's beautiful beacon; the billows subsided, That well I could see the nesses projecting, The blustering crags. Weird often saveth

The undoomed hero if doughty his valor!
But me did it fortune¹ to fell with my weapon
Nine of the nickers. Of night-struggle harder
'Neath dome of the heaven heard I but rarely,
Nor of wight more woful in the waves of the ocean;

Yet I 'scaped with my life the grip of the monsters, Weary from travel. Then the waters bare me To the land of the Finns, the flood with the current, The weltering waves. Not a word hath been told me Of deeds so daring done by thee, Unferth,

And of sword-terror none; never hath Breca At the play of the battle, nor either of you two, Feat so fearless performed with weapons Glinting and gleaming . . . . . . . . . My dear sword always served me faithfully.

I put a stop to the outrages of the seamonsters.

Fortune helps the brave earl.

After that escape I drifted to Finland.

I have never heard of your doing any such bold deeds.

<sup>1</sup> The repetition of 'hwævere' (574 and 578) is regarded by some scholars as a defect. B. suggests 'swá þær' for the first: So there it befell me, etc. Another suggestion is to change the second 'hwævere' into 'swá þær': So there I escaped with my life, etc.

Had your acts been as brave as your words, Grendel had not ravaged your land so long.

The monster is not afraid of the Danes,

but he will soon learn to dread the Geats.

On the second day, any warrior may go unmolested to the mead-banquet. 50

Hrothgar's spirits

are revived.

The old king trusts
Beowulf.
The heroes are

oyful. 5. Queen Wealhheow plays the ostess.

he offers the cup

Harrying in Heorot, if thy hear

Thy mood as ferocious as thou
He hath found out fully that th
The edge-battle eager, of all of
Of the Victory-Scyldings, need

Oaths he exacteth, not any he s
Of the folk of the Danemen, bu
Killeth and feasteth, no contest
From Spear-Danish people. Bu
Of the earls of the Geatmen earl
To give him a grapple. He sha

Bravely to banquet, when the br Which the second day bringeth, O'er children of men shines from Then the gray-haired, war-famed Was blithesome and joyous, the l

Expected assistance; the people Heard from Beowulf his bold resonance was laughter of heroes; lo The words were winsome. Weal Consort of Hrothgar, of courtesy

Gold-decked saluted the men in And the freeborn woman the bea To the lord of the kingdom, first

To the lord of the kingdom, first

65 Treasure-cups tendered, till time was afforded That the decorous-mooded, diademed folk-queen Might bear to Beowulf the bumper o'errunning; She greeted the Geat-prince, God she did thank, Most wise in her words, that her wish was accomplished,

That in any of earlmen she ever should look for Solace in sorrow. He accepted the beaker, Battle-bold warrior, at Wealhtheow's giving, Then equipped for combat quoth he in measures, Beowulf spake, offspring of Ecgtheow:

75 "I purposed in spirit when I mounted the ocean, When I boarded my boat with a band of my liegemen, I would work to the fullest the will of your people Or in foe's-clutches fastened fall in the battle. Deeds I shall do of daring and prowess,

80 Or the last of my life-days live in this mead-hall."
These words to the lady were welcome and pleasing,
The boast of the Geatman; with gold trappings broidered Went the freeborn folk-queen her fond-lord to sit by.
Then again as of yore was heard in the building

85 Courtly discussion, conquerors' shouting, Heroes were happy, till Healfdene's son would Go to his slumber to seek for refreshing; For the horrid hell-monster in the hall-building knew he A fight was determined,¹ since the light of the sun they

90 No longer could see, and lowering darkness
O'er all had descended, and dark under heaven
Shadowy shapes came shying around them.
The liegemen all rose then. One saluted the other,
Hrothgar Beowulf, in rhythmical measures,

Wishing him well, and, the wassail-hall giving To his care and keeping, quoth he departing: She gives presents to the heroes,

Then she offers the cup to Beowulf, thanking God that aid has come.

Beowulf states to the queen the object of his visit.

I determined to do or die.

Glee is high.

Hrothgar retires, leaving Beowulf in charge of the hall.

<sup>1</sup> Kl. suggests a period after 'determined.' This would give the passage as follows: Since they no longer could see the light of the sun, and lowering darkness was down over all, dire under the heavens shadowy beings came going around them.

#### ALL SLEEP SAVE

Hrothgar retires.

iod has provided watch for the all.

nowulf is selfnfident. : prepares for t.

wulf boasts of ability to cope 1 Grendel.

Then Hrothgar departed, his earl-th Folk-lord of Scyldings, forth from th The war-chieftain wished then Weal The queen for a bedmate. To keep The Glory of Kings had given a hall As men heard recounted: for the ki He did special service, gave the giar And the prince of the Geatmen impl His warlike strength and the Wielder 10 His armor of iron off him he did ther His helmet from his head, to his hene His chased-handled chain-sword, cho And bade him bide with his battle-eq The good one then uttered words of 15 Beowulf Geatman, ere his bed he upr "I hold me no meaner in matters of In warlike achievements, than Grende Hence I seek not -----



In strife and destruction; but struggling by night we Shall do without edges, dare he to look for Weaponless warfare, and wise-mooded Father

25 The glory apportion, God ever-holy, On which hand soever to him seemeth proper." Then the brave-mooded hero bent to his slumber, The pillow received the cheek of the noble; And many a martial mere-thane attending

30 Sank to his slumber. Seemed it unlikely That ever thereafter any should hope to Be happy at home, hero-friends visit Or the lordly troop-castle where he lived from his childhood; see their homes They had heard how slaughter had snatched from the wine-hall. again.

35 Had recently ravished, of the race of the Scyldings Too many by far. But the Lord to them granted The weaving of war-speed, to Wederish heroes Aid and comfort, that every opponent By one man's war-might they worsted and vanquished,

40 By the might of himself; the truth is established That God Almighty hath governed for ages Kindreds and nations. A night very lurid The trav'ler-at-twilight came tramping and striding. The warriors were sleeping who should watch the horned-building,

45 One only excepted. 'Mid earthmen 'twas 'stablished, Th' implacable foeman was powerless to hurl them To the land of shadows, if the Lord were unwilling; But serving as warder, in terror to foemen, He angrily bided the issue of battle.1

<sup>1</sup> B. in his masterly articles on Beowulf (P. and B. XII.) rejects the division usually made at this point. 'pá' (711), usually rendered 'then,' he translates 'when,' and connects its clause with the foregoing sentence. These changes he makes to reduce the number of 'cóm's' as principal verbs. (Cf. 703, 711, 721.) With all deference to this acute scholar, I must say that it seems to me that the poet is exhausting his resources to bring out clearly the supreme event on which the whole subsequent action turns. First, he (Grendel) came in the wan night; second, he came from the moor; third, he came to the hall. Time, place from which, place to which, are all given.

God may decide who shall conquer.

The Geatish warriors lie down.

They thought it very unlikely that they should ever

But God raised up a deliverer.

God rules the world.

Grendel comes to Heorot.

Only one warrior is awake.

He goes towards the joyous building. He went under welkin where well he known

The wine-joyous building, brilliant with | Gold-hall of earthmen. Not the earliest

This was not his first visit there.

He the home and manor of Hrothgar ha Ne'er found he in life-days later nor earl

Hardier hero, hall-thanes more sturdy!

Is horrid fingers ear the door open.

e exults over his

pposed prey.

Then came to the building the warrior m Bereft of his joyance. The door quickly On fire-hinges fastened, when his fingers

On fire-hinges fastened, when his fingers
The fell one had flung then — his fury so
15 Open the entrance. Early thereafter

The foeman trod the shining hall-paveme
Strode he angrily; from the eyes of him
A lustre unlovely likest to fire.

He beheld in the hall the heroes in numb A circle of kinsmen sleeping together,

A throng of thanemen: then his thoughts
He minded to sunder from each of the th
The life from his body, horrible demon,
Ere morning came since fate had allowed

The life from his body, horrible demon, Ere morning came, since fate had allowed The prospect of plenty. Providence wills

te has decreed
the shall devour
more heroes.

The prospect of plenty. Providence wille
To permit him any more of men under ha



In unlooked-for assaults were likely to bear him.

No thought had the monster of deferring the matter,
But on earliest occasion he quickly laid hold of
A soldier asleep, suddenly tore him,
Bit his bone-prison, the blood drank in currents,
Swallowed in mouthfuls: he soon had the dead man's

Feet and hands, too, eaten entirely.

Nearer he strode then, the stout-hearted warrior

Snatched as he slumbered, seizing with hand-grip,

Forward the foeman foined with his hand;

Caught he quickly the cunning deviser.

40 On his elbow he rested. This early discovered
The master of malice, that in middle-earth's regions,
'Neath the whole of the heavens, no hand-grapple greater
In any man else had he ever encountered:
Fearful in spirit, faint-mooded waxed he,

45 Not off could betake him; death he was pondering, Would fly to his covert, seek the devils' assembly: His calling no more was the same he had followed Long in his lifetime. The liege-kinsman worthy Of Higelac minded his speech of the evening,

50 Stood he up straight and stoutly did seize him.

His fingers crackled; the giant was outward,

The earl stepped farther. The famous one minded

To flee away farther, if he found an occasion,

And off and away, avoiding delay,

To fly to the fen-moors; he fully was ware of
The strength of his grapple in the grip of the foeman.
'Twas an ill-taken journey that the injury-bringing,
Harrying harmer to Heorot wandered:
The palace re-echoed; to all of the Danemen,

Dwellers in castles, to each of the bold ones,
 Earlmen, was terror. Angry they both were,
 Archwarders raging.¹ Rattled the building;

<sup>1</sup> For 'réőe rén-weardas' (771), t. B. suggests 'réőe, rénhearde.' Translate: They were both angry, raging and mighty.

Grendel immediately seizes a sleeping warrior, and devours him.

Beowulf and Grendel grapple.

The monster is amazed at Beowulf's strength.

He is anxious to flee.

Beowulf recalls his boast of the evening, and determines to fulfil it.

'Twas a luckless day for Grendel.

The hall groans.

Twas a marvellous wonder that the wine-hall withstood then The bold-in-battle, bent not to earthward,

- 65 Excellent earth-hall; but within and without it
  Was fastened so firmly in fetters of iron,
  By the art of the armorer. Off from the sill there
  Bent mead-benches many, as men have informed me,
  Adorned with gold-work, where the grim ones did struggle.
- The Scylding wise men weened ne'er before
  That by might and main-strength a man under heaven
  Might break it in pieces, bone-decked, resplendent,
  Crush it by cunning, unless clutch of the fire
  In smoke should consume it. The sound mounted upward

Grendel's cries ter- 75 rify the Danes.

Novel enough; on the North Danes fastened
A terror of anguish, on all of the men there
Who heard from the wall the weeping and plaining,
The song of defeat from the foeman of heaven,
Heard him hymns of horror howl, and his sorrow
Hell-bound bewailing. He held him too firmly
Who was strongest of main-strength of men of that era.

#### XIII.

#### GRENDEL IS VANQUISHED.

Beowulf has no idea of letting Grendel live. For no cause whatever would the earlmen's defender
Leave in life-joys the loathsome newcomer,
He deemed his existence utterly useless
To men under heaven. Many a noble

Of Beowulf brandished his battle-sword old,
Would guard the life of his lord and protector,
The far-famous chieftain, if able to do so;
While waging the warfare, this wist they but little,
Brave battle-thanes, while his body intending

To slit into slivers, and seeking his spirit:

No weapon would 10 harm Grendel; he bore a charmed life.

To slit into slivers, and seeking his spirit:

That the relentless foeman nor finest of weapons
Of all on the earth, nor any of war-bills

ł

29

Was willing to injure; but weapons of victory Swords and suchlike he had sworn to dispense with.

- 15 His death at that time must prove to be wretched, And the far-away spirit widely should journey Into enemies' power. This plainly he saw then Who with mirth of mood malice no little Had wrought in the past on the race of the earthmen
- 20 (To God he was hostile), that his body would fail him, But Higelac's hardy henchman and kinsman Held him by the hand; hateful to other Was each one if living. A body-wound suffered. The direful demon, damage incurable

25 Was seen on his shoulder, his sinews were shivered, His body did burst. To Beowulf was given Glory in battle; Grendel from thenceward Must flee and hide him in the fen-cliffs and marshes, Sick unto death, his dwelling must look for

- Unwinsome and woful; he wist the more fully The end of his earthly existence was nearing, His life-days' limits. At last for the Danemen, When the slaughter was over, their wish was accomplished. The comer-from-far-land had cleansed then of evil,
- Wise and valiant, the war-hall of Hrothgar,
  Saved it from violence. He joyed in the night-work,
  In repute for prowess; the prince of the Geatmen
  For the East-Danish people his boast had accomplished,
  Bettered their burdensome bale-sorrows fully,
- And were forced to endure from crushing oppression,
  Their manifold misery. Twas a manifest token,
  When the hero-in-battle the hand suspended,
  The arm and the shoulder (there was all of the claw
- 45 Of Grendel together) 'neath great-stretching hall-roof.

Grendel is sorely wounded.

His body bursts.

The monster flees away to hide in the moors.

Beowulf suspends Grendel's hand and arm in Heorot.

<sup>1</sup> It has been proposed to translate 'myroe' by with sorrow; but there seems no authority for such a rendering. To the present translator, the phrase 'modes myroe' seems a mere padding for gladly; i.e., he who gladly harassed mankind.

del's blood

the waters.

alf is the hero

bour.

The footprints of the foeman. Few of the w Who gazed on the foot-tracks of the ingloriou

His parting from life pained very deeply, How, weary in spirit, off from those regions

... ----- journeys to look at th

In combats conquered he carried his traces, Fated and flying, to the flood of the nickers.

There in bloody billows bubbled the currents, The angry eddy was everywhere mingled

And seething with gore, welling with sword-ble He death-doomed had hid him, when reaved o

15 He laid down his life in the lair he had fled to His heathenish spirit, where hell did receive hi

Thence the friends from of old backward turns

And many a younker from merry adventure, Striding their stallions, stout from the seaward,

Heroes on horses. There were heard very often

Beowulf's praises; many often asserted That neither south nor north, in the circuit of

regarded as a O'er outstretching earth-plain, none other was de successor

'Mid bearers of war-shields, more worthy to go thgar. 'Neath the arch of the ether. Not any, howev

'Gainst the friend-lord muttered, mocking-word



To run in rivalry, racing and chasing,

Where the fieldways appeared to them fair and inviting, Known for their excellence; oft a thane of the folk-lord,¹
A man of celebrity, mindful of rhythms,
Who ancient traditions treasured in memory,
New word-groups found properly bound:

The bard after 'gan then Beowulf's venture
Wisely to tell of, and words that were clever
To utter skilfully, earnestly speaking,
Everything told he that he heard as to Sigmund's
Mighty achievements, many things hidden,

The strife of the Wælsing, the wide-going ventures
The children of men knew of but little,
The feud and the fury, but Fitela with him,
When suchlike matters he minded to speak of,
Uncle to nephew, as in every contention

45 Each to other was ever devoted:
A numerous host of the race of the scathers
They had slain with the sword-edge. To Sigmund accrued then
No little of glory, when his life-days were over,
Since he sturdy in struggle had destroyed the great dragon,

The hoard-treasure's keeper; 'neath the hoar-grayish stone he,
The son of the atheling, unaided adventured
The perilous project; not present was Fitela,
Yet the fortune befell him of forcing his weapon
Through the marvellous dragon, that it stood in the wall,

Well-honored weapon; the worm was yslaughtered.

The great one had gained then by his glorious achievement
To reap from the ring-hoard richest enjoyment,

<sup>1</sup> Another and quite different rendering of this passage is as follows: Oft a liegeman of the king, a fame-covered man mindful of songs, who very many ancient traditions remembered (he found other word-groups accurately bound together) began afterward to tell of Beowulf's adventure, skilfully to narrate it, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Might 'guma gilp-hladen' mean 'a man laden with boasts of the deeds of others'?

The gleeman sings

He sings in alliterative measures of Beowulf's prowess.

Also of Sigemund, who had slain a great fire-drake.

Shining ornaments on the ship's bosom carried, 60 Kinsman of Wæls: the drake in heat melted. He was farthest famed of fugitive pilgrims, Mid wide-scattered world-folk, for works of great prowess. War-troopers' shelter: hence waxed he in honor.1 Afterward Heremod's hero-strength failed him, His vigor and valor. 'Mid venomous haters To the hands of foemen he was foully delivered.

As best it did please him: his vessel he loaded,

Heremod, an unfortunate Danish king, is introduced 65 by way of contrast.

Unlike Sigemund and Beowulf, Here-

mod was a burden

to his people.

Sigemund was widely famed.

Offdriven early. Agony-billows Oppressed him too long, to his people he became then, To all the athelings, an ever-great burden;

70 And the daring one's journey in days of yore Many wise men were wont to deplore, Such as hoped he would bring them help in their sorrow, That the son of their ruler should rise into power, Holding the headship held by his fathers,

75 Should govern the people, the gold-hoard and borough,

Beowulf is an honor to his race. The kingdom of heroes, the realm of the Scyldings. He to all men became then far more beloved, Higelac's kinsman, to kindreds and races, To his friends much dearer; him malice assaulted. -

The story is resumed.

- Oft running and racing on roadsters they measured The dun-colored highways. Then the light of the morning Was hurried and hastened. Went henchmen in numbers To the beautiful building, bold ones in spirit, To look at the wonder; the liegelord himself then
- 85 From his wife-bower wending, warden of treasures, Glorious trod with troopers unnumbered, Famed for his virtues, and with him the queen-wife Measured the mead-ways, with maidens attending.

<sup>1</sup> t. B. accepts B.'s 'hé bæs áron báh' as given by H.-So., but puts a comma after 'bah,' and takes 'sibban' as introducing a dependent clause: He throve in honor since Heremod's strength . . . had decreased.



#### XV.

#### HROTHGAR'S GRATITUDE.

Hrothgar discoursed (to the hall-building went he,
He stood by the pillar, saw the steep-rising hall-roof
Gleaming with gold-gems, and Grendel his hand there):
"For the sight we behold now, thanks to the Wielder
Early be offered! Much evil I bided,
Snaring from Grendel: God can e'er 'complish
Wonder on wonder, Wielder of Glory!
But lately I reckoned ne'er under heaven
Comfort to gain me for any of sorrows,

While the handsomest of houses horrid with bloodstain
Gory uptowered; grief had offfrightened 
Each of the wise ones who weened not that ever
The folk-troop's defences 'gainst foes they should strengthen,
'Gainst sprites and monsters. Through the might of the Wielder

A doughty retainer hath a deed now accomplished Which erstwhile we all with our excellent wisdom Failed to perform. May affirm very truly What woman soever in all of the nations Gave birth to the child, if yet she surviveth,

20 That the long-ruling Lord was lavish to herward In the birth of the bairn. Now, Beowulf dear, Most excellent hero, I'll love thee in spirit As bairn of my body; bear well henceforward The relationship new. No lack shall befall thee

25 Of earth-joys any I ever can give thee. Full often for lesser service I've given Hrothgar gives thanks for the overthrow of the monster.

I had given up all hope, when this brave liegeman came to our aid.

If his mother yet liveth, well may she thank God for this son.

Hereafter, Beowulf, thou shalt be my son.

1 B. and t. B. read 'stabole,' and translate stood on the floor.

<sup>2</sup> For 'snaring from Grendel,' 'sorrows at Grendel's hands' has been suggested. This gives a parallel to 'laöes.' 'Grynna' may well be gen. pl. of 'gyrn,' by a scribal slip.

<sup>8</sup> The H.-So. punctuation has been followed; but B. has been followed in understanding 'gehwylcne' as object of 'wid-scofen (hæfde).' Gr. construes 'wéa' as nom. abs.

Thou hast won immortal distinction.

Beowulf replies: I was most happy to render thee this service.

I could not keep the monster from escaping, as God did not will that I should.

He left his hand and arm behind.

God will give him

Unferth has nothing more to say, for Beowulf's actions speak louder than words. Hero less hardy hoard-treasure precious,
To a weaker in war-strife. By works of distinction
Thou hast gained for thyself now that thy glory shall flourish
Forever and ever. The All-Ruler quite thee

Thou hast gained for thyself now that thy glory shall nours

Forever and ever. The All-Ruler quite thee

With good from His hand as He hitherto did thee!"

Beowulf answered, Ecgtheow's offspring:

"That labor of glory most gladly achieved we,

The combat accomplished, unquailing we ventured

- The enemy's grapple; I would grant it much rather Thou wert able to look at the creature in person, Faint unto falling, the foe in his trappings!

  On murder-bed quickly I minded to bind him,

  With firm-holding fetters, that forced by my grapple
- Low he should lie in life-and-death struggle
  'Less his body escape; I was wholly unable,
  Since God did not will it, to keep him from going,
  Not held him that firmly, hated opposer;
  Too swift was the foeman. Yet safety regarding
- He suffered his hand behind him to linger,
  His arm and shoulder, to act as watcher;
  No shadow of solace the woe-begone creature
  Found him there nathless: the hated destroyer
  Liveth no longer, lashed for his evils,
- But sorrow hath seized him, in snare-meshes hath him Close in its clutches, keepeth him writhing In baleful bonds: there banished for evil The man shall wait for the mighty tribunal, How the God of glory shall give him his earnings."
- From boasting and bragging of battle-achievements, Since the princes beheld there the hand that depended 'Neath the lofty hall-timbers by the might of the nobleman, Each one before him, the enemy's fingers;
- 60 Each finger-nail strong steel most resembled, The heathen one's hand-spur, the hero-in-battle's Claw most uncanny; quoth they agreeing,

That not any excellent edges of brave ones
Was willing to touch him, the terrible creature's
Battle-hand bloody to bear away from him.

No sword will harm the monster.

35

### XVI.

#### HROTHGAR LAVISHES GIFTS UPON HIS DELIVERER.

Then straight was ordered that Heorot inside<sup>1</sup>
With hands be embellished: a host of them gathered,
Of men and women, who the wassailing-building
The guest-hall begeared. Gold-flashing sparkled
Webs on the walls them, of wonders a many

- Webs on the walls then, of wonders a many
  To each of the heroes that look on such objects.
  The beautiful building was broken to pieces
  Which all within with irons was fastened,
  Its hinges torn off: only the roof was
- Whole and uninjured when the horrible creature
  Outlawed for evil off had betaken him,
  Hopeless of living. 'Tis hard to avoid it
  (Whoever will do it!); but he doubtless must come to 'The place awaiting, as Wyrd hath appointed,
- Soul-bearers, earth-dwellers, earls under heaven, Where bound on its bed his body shall slumber When feasting is finished. Full was the time then That the son of Healfdene went to the building;

Heorot is adorned with hands.

The hall is defaced, however.

[A vague passage of five verses.]

Hrothgar goes to the banquet.

<sup>1</sup> Kl. suggests 'hroden' for 'hâten,' and renders: Then quickly was Heorot adorned within, with hands bedecked.—B. suggests 'gefrætwon' instead of 'gefrætwod,' and renders: Then was it commanded to adorn Heorot within quickly with hands.—The former has the advantage of affording a parallel to 'gefrætwod': both have the disadvantage of altering the text.

<sup>2</sup> The passage 1005-1009 seems to be hopeless. One difficult point is to find a subject for 'gesacan.' Some say 'he'; others supply 'each,' i.e., every soul-bearer... must gain the inevitable place. The genitives in this case are partitive.— If 'he' be subj., the genitives are dependent on 'gearwe' (= prepared).—The {he' itself is disputed, some referring it to Grendel; but B. takes it as involved in the parenthesis.

Hrothgar's nephew, Hrothulf, is present.

36

Hrothgar lavishes gifts upon Beowulf.

Four handsomer gifts were never presented.

Hrothgar commands that eight finely caparisoned steeds be brought to Beowulf.

The excellent atheling would eat of the banquet. 20 Ne'er heard I that people with hero-band larger Bare them better tow'rds their bracelet-bestower. The laden-with-glory stooped to the bench then (Their kinsmen-companions in plenty were joyful, Many a cupful quaffing complaisantly), Doughty of spirit in the high-tow'ring palace, Hrothgar and Hrothulf. Heorot then inside Was filled with friendly ones; falsehood and treachery The Folk-Scyldings now nowise did practise. Then the offspring of Healfdene offered to Beowulf A golden standard, as reward for the victory, A banner embossed, burnie and helmet; Many men saw then a song-famous weapon Borne 'fore the hero. Beowulf drank of The cup in the building; that treasure-bestowing 35 He needed not blush for in battle-men's presence. Ne'er heard I that many men on the ale-bench In friendlier fashion to their fellows presented Four bright jewels with gold-work embellished. 'Round the roof of the helmet a head-guarder outside Braided with wires, with bosses was furnished,

Forth against foemen. The defender of earls then
Commanded that eight steeds with bridles
Gold-plated, gleaming, be guided to hallward,
Inside the building; on one of them stood then
An art-broidered saddle embellished with jewels;
'Twas the sovereign's seat, when the son of King Healfdene
Was pleased to take part in the play of the edges;
The famous one's valor ne'er failed at the front when
Slain ones were bowing. And to Beowulf granted

That swords-for-the-battle fight-hardened might fail Boldly to harm him, when the hero proceeded

Slain ones were bowing. And to Beowulf granted
The prince of the Ingwins, power over both,
O'er war-steeds and weapons; bade him well to enjoy them.
In so manly a manner the mighty-famed chieftain,

37

55 Hoard-ward of heroes, with horses and jewels
War-storms requited, that none e'er condemneth
Who willeth to tell truth with full justice.

#### XVII.

### BANQUET (continued). - THE SCOP'S SONG OF FINN AND HNÆF.

Who the ways of the waters went with Beowulf,
A costly gift-token gave on the mead-bench,
Offered an heirloom, and ordered that that man
With gold should be paid for, whom Grendel had erstwhile
Wickedly slaughtered, as he more of them had done

Had far-seeing God and the mood of the hero
The fate not averted: the Father then governed
All of the earth-dwellers, as He ever is doing;

And the atheling of earlmen to each of the heroes

Forethought of spirit! much he shall suffer
Of lief and of loathsome who long in this present
Useth the world in this woful existence.
There was music and merriment mingling together

Touching Healfdene's leader; the joy-wood was fingered, Measures recited, when the singer of Hrothgar On mead-bench should mention the merry hall-joyance Of the kinsmen of Finn, when onset surprised them:

"The Half-Danish hero, Hnæf of the Scyldings,

On the field of the Frisians was fated to perish,
Sure Hildeburg needed not mention approving
The faith of the Jutemen: though blameless entirely,
When shields were shivered she was shorn of her darlings,
Of bairns and brothers: they bent to their fate

25 With war-spear wounded; woe was that woman.

Not causeless lamented the daughter of Hoce

The decree of the Wielder when morning-light came and

She was able 'neath heaven to behold the destruction

Each of Beowulf's companions receives a costly gift.

The warrior killed by Grendel is to be paid for in gold.

Hrothgar's scop recalls events in the reign of his lord's father.

Hnsef, the Danish general, is treacherously attacked while staying at Finn's castle.

Queen Hildeburg is not only wife of Finn, but a kinswoman of the murdered Hnsef,

Finn's force is almost exterminated.

Hengest succeeds Hnæf as Danish general.

Compact between the Frisians and the Danes.

Equality of gifts agreed on.

No one shall refer to old grudges.

Danish warriors are burned on a funeral-pyre. Of brothers and bairns, where the brightest of earth-joys She had hitherto had: all the henchmen of Finn War had offtaken, save a handful remaining, That he nowise was able to offer resistance <sup>1</sup> To the onset of Hengest in the parley of battle, Nor the wretched remnant to rescue in war from The earl of the atheling; but they offered conditions, Another great building to fully make ready, A hall and a high-seat, that half they might rule with The sons of the Jutemen, and that Folcwalda's son would Day after day the Danemen honor

When gifts were giving, and grant of his ring-store
To Hengest's earl-troop ever so freely,
Of his gold-plated jewels, as he encouraged the Frisians
On the bench of the beer-hall. On both sides they swore then
A fast-binding compact; Finn unto Hengest

- With no thought of revoking vowed then most solemnly
  The woe-begone remnant well to take charge of,
  His Witan advising; the agreement should no one
  By words or works weaken and shatter,
  By artifice ever injure its value,
- Though reaved of their ruler their ring-giver's slayer
  They followed as vassals, Fate so requiring:
  Then if one of the Frisians the quarrel should speak of
  In tones that were taunting, terrible edges
  Should cut in requital. Accomplished the oath was,
- 55 And treasure of gold from the hoard was unlifted.

  The best of the Scylding braves was then fully
  Prepared for the pile; at the pyre was seen clearly
  The blood-gory burnie, the boar with his gilding,
  The iron-hard swine, athelings many
- 60 Fatally wounded; no few had been slaughtered. Hildeburg bade then, at the burning of Hnæf,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For 1084, R. suggests 'with Hengeste wit gefeohtan.' — K. suggests 'with Hengeste with gefeohtan.' Neither emendation would make any essential change in the translation.



The bairn of her bosom to bear to the fire,

That his body be burned and borne to the pyre.

The woe-stricken woman wept on his shoulder,<sup>1</sup>

In measures lamented; upmounted the hero.<sup>2</sup>

The greatest of dead-fires curled to the welkin,

On the hill's-front crackled; heads were a-melting,

Wound-doors bursting, while the blood was a-coursing

From body-bite fierce. The fire devoured them,

Greediest of spirits, whom war had offcarried

From both of the peoples; their bravest were fallen.

Queen Hildeburg has her son burnt along with Hnzef.

#### XVIII.

#### THE FINN EPISODE (continued). - THE BANQUET CONTINUES.

"Then the warriors departed to go to their dwellings, Reaved of their friends, Friesland to visit, Their homes and high-city. Hengest continued Biding with Finn the blood-tainted winter, Wholly unsundered; of fatherland thought he Though unable to drive the ring-stemmed vessel The survivors go to Friesland, the home of Finn.

Hengest remains there all winter, unable to get away.

¹ The separation of adjective and noun by a phrase (cf. v. III8) being very unusual, some scholars have put 'earme on eaxle' with the foregoing lines, inserting a semicolon after 'eaxle.' In this case 'on eaxe' (i.e., on the ashes, cinders) is sometimes read, and this affords a parallel to 'on bæl.' Let us hope that a satisfactory rendering will yet be reached without resorting to any tampering with the text, such as Lichtenheld proposed: 'earme ides on eaxle gnornode.'

<sup>2</sup> For 'gáð-rinc,' 'gáð-réc,' battle-smoke, has been suggested.

\* For 1130 (1) R. and Gr. suggest 'elne unflitme' as 1098 (1) reads. The latter verse is undisputed; and, for the former, 'elne' would be as possible as 'ealles,' and 'unflitme' is well supported. Accepting 'elne unflitme' for both, I would suggest 'very peaceably' for both places: (1) Finn to Hengest very peaceably vowed with oaths, etc. (2) Hengest then still the slaughter-stained winter remained there with Finn very peaceably. The two passages become thus correlatives, the second a sequel of the first. 'Elne,' in the sense of very (swide), needs no argument; and 'unflitme' (from 'filtan') can, it seems to me, be more plausibly rendered 'peaceful,' 'peaceable,' than 'contestable,' or 'conquerable.'

O'er the ways of the waters; the wave-deeps were tossing, Fought with the wind; winter in ice-bonds Closed up the currents, till there came to the dwelling 10 A year in its course, as yet it revolveth, If season propitious one alway regardeth. World-cheering weathers. Then winter was gone. Earth's bosom was lovely; the exile would get him, The guest from the palace; on grewsomest vengeance 15 He brooded more eager than on oversea journeys, Whe'r onset-of-anger he were able to 'complish,

He devises schemes of vengeance.

40

The bairns of the Jutemen therein to remember. Nowise refused he the duties of liegeman When Hun of the Frisians the battle-sword Láfing,

20 Fairest of falchions, friendly did give him: Its edges were famous in folk-talk of Jutland. And savage sword-fury seized in its clutches Bold-mooded Finn where he bode in his palace, When the grewsome grapple Guthlaf and Oslaf

Guthlaf and Oslaf revenge Hnæf's slaughter.

Finn is slain.

Had mournfully mentioned, the mere-journey over, For sorrows half-blamed him; the flickering spirit Could not bide in his bosom. Then the building was covered 1 With corpses of foemen, and Finn too was slaughtered, The king with his comrades, and the queen made a prisoner.

The jewels of Finn, 30 and his queen are carried away by the Danes.

The troops of the Scyldings bore to their vessels All that the land-king had in his palace. Such trinkets and treasures they took as, on searching, At Finn's they could find. They ferried to Daneland The excellent woman on oversea journey,

The lay is concluded, and the main story is resumed.

Led her to their land-folk." The lay was concluded, The gleeman's recital. Shouts again rose then, Bench-glee resounded, bearers then offered Wine from wonder-vats. Wealhtheo advanced then Going 'neath gold-crown, where the good ones were seated

Skinkers carry round the beaker.

<sup>1</sup> Some scholars have proposed 'roden'; the line would then read: Then the building was reddened, etc., instead of 'covered.' The 'h' may have been carried over from the three alliterating 'h's.'



52

### Beowulf.

4 I

- 40 Uncle and nephew; their peace was yet mutual,
  True each to the other. And Unferth the spokesman
  Sat at the feet of the lord of the Scyldings:
  Each trusted his spirit that his mood was courageous,
  Though at fight he had failed in faith to his kinsmen.
- Said the queen of the Scyldings: "My lord and protector,
  Treasure-bestower, take thou this beaker;
  Joyance attend thee, gold-friend of heroes,
  And greet thou the Geatmen with gracious responses!
  So ought one to do. Be kind to the Geatmen,
- In gifts not niggardly; anear and afar now Peace thou enjoyest. Report hath informed me Thou'lt have for a bairn the battle-brave hero. Now is Heorot cleansed, ring-palace gleaming; Give while thou mayest many rewards,
- on wending thy way to the Wielder's splendor.

  I know good Hrothulf, that the noble young troopers
  He'll care for and honor, lord of the Scyldings,
  If earth-joys thou endest earlier than he doth;
- 60 I reckon that recompense he'll render with kindness Our offspring and issue, if that all he remember, What favors of yore, when he yet was an infant, We awarded to him for his worship and pleasure." Then she turned by the bench where her sons were carousing,
- 65 Hrethric and Hrothmund, and the heroes' offspring,
  The war-youth together; there the good one was sitting
  'Twixt the brothers twain, Beowulf Geatman.

Queen Wealhtheow greets Hrothgar, as he sits beside Hrothulf, his nephew.

Be generous to the Geats.

Have as much joy as possible in thy hall, once more purified.

I know that Hrothulf will prove faithful if he survive thee.

Beowulf is sitting by the two royal sons.

#### XIX.

#### BEOWULF RECEIVES FURTHER HONOR.

A beaker was borne him, and bidding to quaff it Graciously given, and gold that was twisted Pleasantly proffered, a pair of arm-jewels, More gifts are offered Beowulf. A famous necklace is referred to, in comparison with the gems presented to Beowulf.

- Rings and corslet, of collars the greatest

  I've heard of 'neath heaven. Of heroes not any
  More splendid from jewels have I heard 'neath the welkin,
  Since Hama off bore the Brosingmen's necklace,
  The bracteates and jewels, from the bright-shining city,
  Eormenric's cunning craftiness fled from,
- o Chose gain everlasting. Geatish Higelac,
  Grandson of Swerting, last had this jewel
  When tramping 'neath banner the treasure he guarded,
  The field-spoil defended; Fate offcarried him
  When for deeds of daring he endured tribulation,
- 15 Hate from the Frisians; the ornaments bare he O'er the cup of the currents, costly gem-treasures, Mighty folk-leader, he fell 'neath his target; The 2 corpse of the king then came into charge of The race of the Frankmen, the mail-shirt and collar:
- Warmen less noble plundered the fallen,
   When the fight was finished; the folk of the Geatmen
   The field of the dead held in possession.
   The choicest of mead-halls with cheering resounded.
   Wealhtheo discoursed, the war-troop addressed she:

"This collar enjoy thou, Beowulf worthy, Young man, in safety, and use thou this armor, Gems of the people, and prosper thou fully, Show thyself sturdy and be to these liegemen Mild with instruction! I'll mind thy requital.

- Thou hast brought it to pass that far and near Forever and ever earthmen shall honor thee, Even so widely as ocean surroundeth The blustering bluffs. Be, while thou livest,
- <sup>1</sup> C. suggests a semicolon after 'city,' with 'he' as supplied subject of 'fled' and 'chose.'
- <sup>2</sup> For 'feorh' S. suggests 'feoh': 'corpse' in the translation would then be changed to 'possessions,' 'belongings.' This is a better reading than one joining, in such intimate syntactical relations, things so unlike as 'corpse' and 'jewels.'

Queen Wealhtheow magnifies Beowulf's achieve-

ments.

43

A wealth-blessed atheling. I wish thee most truly 35 Jewels and treasure. Be kind to my son, thou Living in joyance! Here each of the nobles Is true unto other, gentle in spirit, Loyal to leader. The liegemen are peaceful, The war-troops ready: well-drunken heroes,1

40 Do as I bid ye." Then she went to the settle. There was choicest of banquets, wine drank the heroes:

Weird they knew not, destiny cruel, As to many an earlman early it happened, When evening had come and Hrothgar had parted

45 Off to his manor, the mighty to slumber. Warriors unnumbered warded the building As erst they did often: the ale-settle bared they, Twas covered all over with beds and pillows. Doomed unto death, down to his slumber

50 Bowed then a beer-thane. Their battle-shields placed they, Bright-shining targets, up by their heads then; O'er the atheling on ale-bench 'twas easy to see there Battle-high helmet, burnie of ring-mail, And mighty war-spear. 'Twas the wont of that people

To constantly keep them equipped for the battle,<sup>2</sup> At home or marching - in either condition -At seasons just such as necessity ordered As best for their ruler; that people was worthy.

May gifts never fail thee.

They little know of the sorrow in store for them.

A doomed thane is there with them.

They were always ready for battle.

1 S. suggests 'wine-joyous heroes,' 'warriors elated with wine.'

<sup>2</sup> I believe this translation brings out the meaning of the poet, without departing seriously from the H.-So. text. 'Oft' frequently means 'constantly,' 'continually,' not always 'often.' - Why 'an (on) wig gearwe' should be written 'ánwig-gearwe' (= ready for single combat), I cannot see. 'Gearwe' occurs quite frequently with 'on'; cf. B. 1110 (ready for the pyre), El. 222 (ready for the glad journey). Moreover, what has the idea of single combat to do with B. 1247 ff.? The poet is giving an inventory of the arms and armor which they lay aside on retiring, and he closes his narration by saying that they were always prepared for battle both at home and on the march.

# XX.

#### THE MOTHER OF GRENDEL.

They sank then to slumber. With sorrow one paid for His evening repose, as often betid them While Grendel was holding 1 the gold-bedecked palace, Ill-deeds performing, till his end overtook him, Death for his sins. 'Twas seen very clearly, Known unto earth-folk, that still an avenger Outlived the loathed one, long since the sorrow Caused by the struggle; the mother of Grendel, Devil-shaped woman, her woe ever minded,

is known to be thirsting for revenge.

Grendel's mother

[Grendel's progenitor, Cain, is again referred to.]

The poet again magnifies Beowulf a valor.

Who was held to inhabit the horrible waters. The cold-flowing currents, after Cain had become a Slayer-with-edges to his one only brother, The son of his sire; he set out then banished,

Marked as a murderer, man-joys avoiding, 15 Lived in the desert. Thence demons unnumbered Fate-sent awoke; one of them Grendel, Sword-cursed, hateful, who at Heorot met with

A man that was watching, waiting the struggle, Where a horrid one held him with hand-grapple sturdy; 20 Nathless he minded the might of his body,

The glorious gift God had allowed him, And folk-ruling Father's favor relied on, His help and His comfort: so he conquered the foeman, The hell-spirit humbled: he unhappy departed then,

Reaved of his joyance, journeying to death-haunts, Foeman of man. His mother moreover Eager and gloomy was anxious to go on Her mournful mission, mindful of vengeance For the death of her son. She came then to Heorot

Grendel's mother comes to avenge her son.

1265

75

75

<sup>1</sup> Several eminent authorities either read or emend the MS. so as to make this verse read, While Grendel was wasting the gold-bedecked palace. So 2015 below: ravaged the desert.



30 Where the Armor-Dane earlmen all through the building Were lying in slumber. Soon there became then Return 1 to the nobles, when the mother of Grendel Entered the folk-hall; the fear was less grievous By even so much as the vigor of maidens,

· 35 War-strength of women, by warrior is reckoned, When well-carved weapon, worked with the hammer. Blade very bloody, brave with its edges, Strikes down the boar-sign that stands on the helmet. Then the hard-edgèd weapon was heard in the building,2

40 The brand o'er the benches, broad-lindens many Hand-fast were lifted; for helmet he recked not, For armor-net broad, whom terror laid hold of. She went then hastily, outward would get her Her life for to save, when some one did spy her;

45 Soon she had grappled one of the athelings 12*95* Fast and firmly, when fenward she hied her: That one to Hrothgar was liefest of heroes In rank of retainer where waters encircle, A mighty shield-warrior, whom she murdered at slumber,

50 A broadly-famed battle-knight. Beowulf was absent, But another apartment was erstwhile devoted To the glory-decked Geatman when gold was distributed. There was hubbub in Heorot. The hand that was famous She grasped in its gore; 8 grief was renewed then

She seizes a favorite liegemen of Hrothgar's.

in another part of the palace.

1300

<sup>1</sup> For 'sóna' (1281), t. B. suggests 'sára,' limiting 'edhwyrft.' Read then: Return of sorrows to the nobles, etc. This emendation supplies the syntactical gap after 'edhwyrft.'

<sup>2</sup> Some authorities follow Grein's lexicon in treating 'heard-ecg' as an adj. limiting 'sweord': H.-So, renders it as a subst. (So v. 1491.) The sense of the translation would be the same.

B. suggests 'under hrof genam' (v. 1303). This emendation, as well as an emendation with (?) to v. 739, he offers, because 'under' baffles him in both passages. All we need is to take 'under' in its secondary meaning of 'in,' which, though not given by Grein, occurs in the literature. Cf. Chron. 876 (March's A.-S. Gram. § 355) and Oro. Amaz. I. 10, where 'under' = in the midst of. Cf. modern Eng. 'in such circumstances,' which interchanges in good usage with 'under such circumstances.'

45

50

85

ه زن

Beowulf was asleep

46

for.

mons.

rest.

# Beowulf.

1305 55 In homes and houses: 'twas no happy arrangement In both of the quarters to barter and purchase With lives of their friends. Then the well-aged ruler, The gray-headed war-thane, was woful in spirit, When his long-trusted liegeman lifeless he knew of, 1310 Beowulf is sent 60 His dearest one gone. Quick from a room was Beowulf brought, brave and triumphant. As day was dawning in the dusk of the morning, He comes at Went then that earlman, champion noble, Hrothgar's sum-Came with comrades, where the clever one bided 1315 65 Whether God all gracious would grant him a respite After the woe he had suffered. The war-worthy hero With a troop of retainers trod then the pavement (The hall-building groaned), till he greeted the wise one, Beowulf inquires The earl of the Ingwins; 1 asked if the night had

#### XXI.

### HROTHGAR'S ACCOUNT OF THE MONSTERS.

Hrothgar laments the death of Æschere, his shouldercompanion.

how Hrothgar had

enjoyed his night's 70

. Hrothgar rejoined, helm of the Scyldings: "Ask not of joyance! Grief is renewed to The folk of the Danemen. Dead is Æschere, Yrmenlaf's brother, older than he, 5 My true-hearted counsellor, trusty adviser, Shoulder-companion, when fighting in battle Our heads we protected, when troopers were clashing,

Fully refreshed him, as fain he would have it.

He was my ideal hero.

And heroes were dashing; such an earl should be ever, An erst-worthy atheling, as Æschere proved him. 10 The flickering death-spirit became in Heorot His hand-to-hand murderer; I can not tell whither The cruel one turned in the carcass exulting,

1 For 'néod-laou' (1321) C. suggests 'néad-laoum,' and translates: asked whether the night had been pleasant to him after crushing-hostility.

1321



47

By cramming discovered.1 The quarrel she wreaked then, That last night igone Grendel thou killedst 15 In grewsomest manner, with grim-holding clutches, Since too long he had lessened my liege-troop and wasted My folk-men so foully. He fell in the battle With forfeit of life, and another has followed, A mighty crime-worker, her kinsman avenging, 134(20 And henceforth hath 'stablished her hatred unyielding,2 As it well may appear to many a liegeman.

This horrible creature came to avenge Grendel's death.

- Who mourneth in spirit the treasure-bestower, Her heavy heart-sorrow; the hand is now lifeless Which availed you in every wish that you cherished. 25 Land-people heard I, liegemen, this saying,
- Dwellers in halls, they had seen very often A pair of such mighty march-striding creatures, Far-dwelling spirits, holding the moorlands: One of them wore, as well they might notice,
- 30 The image of woman, the other one wretched In guise of a man wandered in exile, Except he was huger than any of earthmen; Earth-dwelling people entitled him Grendel In days of yore: they know not their father,
- 35 Whe'r ill-going spirits any were borne him Ever before. They guard the wolf-coverts, Lands inaccessible, wind-beaten nesses, Fearfullest fen-deeps, where a flood from the mountains 'Neath mists of the nesses netherward rattles,
- 40 The stream under earth: not far is it henceward Which forests hang over, with frost-whiting covered,4

They inhabit the most desolate and horrible places.

I have heard my

vassals speak of

these two uncanny

monsters who lived in the moors.

- Measured by mile-lengths that the mere-water standeth,
- <sup>1</sup> For 'gefrægnod' (1334), K. and t. B. suggest 'gefægnod,' rendering 'rejoicing in her fill.' This gives a parallel to 'æse wlanc' (1333).
- <sup>2</sup> The line 'And . . . yielding,' B. renders: And she has performed a deed of blood-vengeance whose effect is far-reaching.
- 8 'Sé be' (1345) is an instance of masc. rel. with fem. antecedent. So v. 1888, where 'sé þé' refers to 'yldo.'
- 4 For 'hrimge' in the H.-So. edition, Gr. and others read 'hrinde' (= hrinende), and translate: which rustling forests overhang.

1363



48

# Beowulf.

1365

A firm-rooted forest, the floods overshadow.

There ever at night one an ill-meaning portent

A fire-flood may see; 'mong children of men
None liveth so wise that wot of the bottom;
Though harassed by hounds the heath-stepper seek for,
Fly to the forest, firm-antiered he-deer,
Spurred from afar, his spirit he yieldeth,
His life on the shore, ere in he will venture
To cover his head. Uncanny the place is:
Thence upward ascendeth the surging of waters,
Wan to the welkin, when the wind is stirring
The weathers unpleasing, till the air groweth gloomy,
And the heavens lower. Now is help to be gotten
From thee and thee only! The abode thou know'st not,

Even the hounded deer will not seek refuge in these uncanny regions.

To thee only can I look for assistance. 55

The dangerous place where thou'rt able to meet with
The sin-laden hero: seek if thou darest!
For the feud I will fully fee thee with money,
With old-time treasure, as erstwhile I did thee,
With well-twisted jewels, if away thou shalt get thee."

#### XXII.

#### BEOWULF SEEKS GRENDEL'S MOTHER.

Beowulf exhorts the old king to arouse himself for action. Beowulf answered, Ecgtheow's son:

"Grieve not, O wise one! for each it is better,
His friend to avenge than with vehemence wail him;
Each of us must the end-day abide of
His earthly existence; who is able accomplish
Glory ere death! To battle-thane noble
Lifeless lying, 'tis at last most fitting.
Arise, O king, quick let us hasten
To look at the footprint of the kinsman of Grendel!
I promise thee this now: to his place he'll escape not,
To embrace of the earth, nor to mountainous forest,
Nor to depths of the ocean, wherever he wanders.



Practice thou now patient endurance
Of each of thy sorrows, as I hope for thee soothly!"

Then up sprang the old one, the All-Wielder thanked he, Ruler Almighty, that the man had outspoken.

Then for Hrothgar a war-horse was decked with a bridle, Curly-maned courser. The clever folk-leader Stately proceeded: stepped then an earl-troop

Of linden-wood bearers. Her footprints were seen then Widely in wood-paths, her way o'er the bottoms,

Where she faraway fared o'er fen-country murky,

Who pondered with Hrothgar the welfare of country.

The son of the athelings then went o'er the stony,
Declivitous cliffs, the close-covered passes,
Narrow passages, paths unfrequented,
Nesses abrupt, nicker-haunts many;
One of a few of wise-mooded heroes,

Bore away breathless the best of retainers

30 He onward advanced to view the surroundings, Till he found unawares woods of the mountain O'er hoar-stones hanging, holt-wood unjoyful; The water stood under, welling and gory. 'Twas irksome in spirit to all of the Danemen,

55 Friends of the Scyldings, to many a liegeman Sad to be suffered, a sorrow unlittle

To each of the earlmen, when to Æschere's head they Came on the cliff. The current was seething

With blood and with gore (the troopers gazed on it).

The horn anon sang the battle-song ready.

The troop were all seated; they saw 'long the water then Many a serpent, mere-dragons wondrous

Trying the waters, nickers a-lying

On the cliffs of the nesses, which at noonday full often

Wild-beasts and wormkind; (away then they hastened Hot-mooded, hateful, they heard the great clamor, The war-trumpet winding. One did the Geat-prince

Hrothgar rouses himself. His horse is brought.

They start on the track of the female monster.

The sight of Æschere's head causes them great sorrow.

The water is filled with serpents and sea-dragons.

One of them is killed by Beowulf.



50

## Beowulf.

The dead beast is a poor swimmer.

Sunder from earth-joys, with arrow from bowstring. From his sea-struggle tore him, that the trusty war-missile Pierced to his vitals; he proved in the currents Less doughty at swimming whom death had offcarried. Soon in the waters the wonderful swimmer Was straitened most sorely with sword-pointed boar-spears,

55 Pressed in the battle and pulled to the cliff-edge; The liegemen then looked on the loath-fashioned stranger. Beowulf donned then his battle-equipments,

Beowulf prepares for a struggle with the fire-drake.

Cared little for life; inlaid and most ample, The hand-woven corslet which could cover his body.

60 Must the wave-deeps explore, that war might be powerless To harm the great hero, and the hating one's grasp might Not peril his safety; his head was protected By the light-flashing helmet that should mix with the bot-

Trying the eddies, treasure-emblazoned,

65 Encircled with jewels, as in seasons long past The weapon-smith worked it, wondrously made it, With swine-bodies fashioned it, that thenceforward no longer Brand might bite it, and battle-sword hurt it. And that was not least of helpers in prowess

He has Unferth's sword in his hand.

- That Hrothgar's spokesman had lent him when straitened; And the hilted hand-sword was Hrunting entitled, Old and most excellent 'mong all of the treasures; Its blade was of iron, blotted with poison, Hardened with gore; it failed not in battle
- 75 Any hero under heaven in hand who it brandished, Who ventured to take the terrible journeys, The battle-field sought; not the earliest occasion That deeds of daring 'twas destined to 'complish. Ecglas's kinsman minded not soothly.

Unferth has little use for swords.

80 Exulting in strength, what erst he had spoken Drunken with wine, when the weapon he lent to A sword-hero bolder; himself did not venture 'Neath the strife of the currents his life to endanger,



To fame-deeds perform; there he forfeited glory,

85 Repute for his strength. Not so with the other

When he clad in his corslet had equipped him for battle.

#### XXIII.

#### BEOWULF'S FIGHT WITH GRENDEL'S MOTHER.

Beowulf spake, Ecgtheow's son: Beownlf makes a parting speech to "Recall now, oh, famous kinsman of Healfdene, Hrothgar. Prince very prudent, now to part I am ready, Gold-friend of earlmen, what erst we agreed on, 5 Should I lay down my life in lending thee assistance, If I fall, act as a When my earth-joys were over, thou wouldst evermore serve me kind liegelord to my thanes, In stead of a father; my faithful thanemen, My trusty retainers, protect thou and care for, Fall I in battle: and, Hrothgar beloved so Send unto Higelac the high-valued jewels and send Higelac the jewels thou Thou to me hast allotted. The lord of the Geatmen hast given me. May perceive from the gold, the Hrethling may see it I should like my When he looks on the jewels, that a gem-giver found I. king to know how Good over-measure, enjoyed him while able. generous a lord I 15 And the ancient heirloom Unferth permit thou, found thee to be. The famed one to have, the heavy-sword splendid 1 The hard-edgèd weapon; with Hrunting to aid me, I shall gain me glory, or grim-death shall take me." The atheling of Geatmen uttered these words and Beowulf is eager for the fray. 20 Heroic did hasten, not any rejoinder Was willing to wait for; the wave-current swallowed He is a whole day The doughty-in-battle. Then a day's-length elapsed ere reaching the bot-He was able to see the sea at its bottom. tom of the sea. Early she found then who fifty of winters 25 The course of the currents kept in her fury, Grisly and greedy, that the grim one's dominion

<sup>1</sup> Kl. emends 'wel-sweord.' The half-line would then read, 'the battle-sword splendid.'— For 'heard-ecg' in next half-verse, see note to 20m above.



Grendel's mother knows that some one has reached

her domains.

52

Some one of men from above was exploring.

Forth did she grab them, grappled the warrior.

With horrible clutches; yet no sooner she injured.

His body unscathed: the burnie out-guarded,

That she proved but powerless to pierce through the armor,

The limb-mail locked, with loath-grabbing fingers.

The sea-wolf bare then, when bottomward came she,

The ring-prince homeward, that he after was powerless

(He had daring to do it) to deal with his weapons,

But many a mere-beast tormented him swimming,

Flood-beasts no few with fierce-biting tusks did

Break through his burnie, the brave one pursued they.

The earl then discovered he was down in some cavern

She grabs him, and bears him to her den.

Sea-monsters bite and strike him.

Where no water whatever anywise harmed him,
And the clutch of the current could come not anear him,
Since the roofed-hall prevented; brightness a-gleaming
Fire-light he saw, flashing resplendent.
The good one saw then the sea-bottom's monster,

Beowulf attacks the mother of Grendel The mighty mere-woman; he made a great onset
With weapon-of-battle, his hand not desisted
From striking, that war-blade struck on her head then
A battle-song greedy. The stranger perceived then
The sword would not bite, her life would not injure,

But the falchion failed the folk-prince when straitened:

The sword will not bite.

Erst had it often onsets encountered,
Oft cloven the helmet, the fated one's armor:
'Twas the first time that ever the excellent jewel
Had failed of its fame. Firm-mooded after,
Not heedless of valor, but mindful of glory,

Was Higelac's kinsman; the hero-chief angry
Cast then his carved-sword covered with jewels,
That it lay on the earth, hard and steel-pointed;
He hoped in his strength, his hand-grapple sturdy.

So any must act whenever he thinketh

down all weapons, and again trusts to his hand-grip.

The hero throws

To gain him in battle glory unending, And is reckless of living. The lord of the War-Geats

53

(He shrank not from battle) seized by the shoulder <sup>1</sup>
The mother of Grendel; then mighty in struggle

65 Swung he his enemy, since his anger was kindled,
That she fell to the floor. With furious grapple

She gave him requital <sup>2</sup> early thereafter,
And stretched out to grab him; the strongest of warriors

Faint-mooded stumbled, till he fell in his traces,

Beowulf falls.

70 Foot-going champion. Then she sat on the hall-guest And wielded her war-knife wide-bladed, flashing, For her son would take vengeance, her one only bairn. His breast-armor woven bode on his shoulder; It guarded his life, the entrance defended

The monster sits on him with drawn sword.

75 'Gainst sword-point and edges. Ecgtheow's son there Had fatally journeyed, champion of Geatmen,
In the arms of the ocean, had the armor not given,
Close-woven corslet, comfort and succor,
And had God most holy not awarded the victory.

His armor saves his life.

80 All-knowing Lord; easily did heaven's Ruler most righteous arrange it with justice; <sup>8</sup> Uprose he erect ready for battle. God arranged for his escape.

### XXIV.

### BEOWULF IS DOUBLE-CONQUEROR.

Then he saw mid the war-gems a weapon of victory, An ancient giant-sword, of edges a-doughty, Glory of warriors: of weapons 'twas choicest, Only 'twas larger than any man else was Beowulf grasps a giant-sword,

- <sup>1</sup> Sw., R., and t. B. suggest 'feaxe' for 'eaxle' (1538) and render: Seised by the hair.
- <sup>2</sup> If 'hand-léan' be accepted (as the MS. has it), the line will read: She hand-reward gave him early thereafter.
- <sup>3</sup> Sw. and S. change H.-So.'s semicolon (v. 1557) to a comma, and translate: The Ruler of Heaven arranged it in justice easily, after he arose again.

### 54

# Beowulf.

5 Able to bear to the battle-encounter, The good and splendid work of the giants. He grasped then the sword-hilt, knight of the Scyldings, Bold and battle-grim, brandished his ring-sword, Hopeless of living, hotly he smote her,

and fells the female monster.

That the fiend-woman's neck firmly it grappled, Broke through her bone-joints, the bill fully pierced her Fate-cursed body, she fell to the ground then: The hand-sword was bloody, the hero exulted. The brand was brilliant, brightly it glimmered,

15 Just as from heaven gemlike shineth The torch of the firmament. He glanced 'long the building, And turned by the wall then, Higelac's vassal Raging and wrathful raised his battle-sword Strong by the handle. The edge was not useless

20 To the hero-in-battle, but he speedily wished to Give Grendel requital for the many assaults he Had worked on the West-Danes not once, but often, When he slew in slumber the subjects of Hrothgar, Swallowed down fifteen sleeping retainers

25 Of the folk of the Danemen, and fully as many Carried away, a horrible prey. He gave him requital, grim-raging champion, When he saw on his rest-place weary of conflict Grendel lying, of life-joys bereaved,

Beowulf sees the body of Grendel, and cuts off his bead.

As the battle at Heorot erstwhile had scathed him; His body far bounded, a blow when he suffered, Death having seized him, sword-smiting heavy, And he cut off his head then. Early this noticed

1590

The clever carles who as comrades of Hrothgar

The waters are gory.

Gazed on the sea-deeps, that the surging wave-currents Were mightily mingled, the mere-flood was gory: Of the good one the gray-haired together held converse, The hoary of head, that they hoped not to see again The atheling ever, that exulting in victory

Beowulf is given up for dead.

40 He'd return there to visit the distinguished folk-ruler:



Then many concluded the mere-wolf had killed him.¹
The ninth hour came then. From the ness-edge departed
The bold-mooded Scyldings; the gold-friend of heroes
Homeward betook him. The strangers sat down then

- 45 Soul-sick, sorrowful, the sea-waves regarding:
  They wished and yet weened not their well-loved friend-lord
  To see any more. The sword-blade began then,
  The blood having touched it, contracting and shriveling
  With battle-icicles; 'twas a wonderful marvel
- That it melted entirely, likest to ice when
  The Father unbindeth the bond of the frost and
  Unwindeth the wave-bands, He who wieldeth dominion
  Of times and of tides: a truth-firm Creator.
  Nor took he of jewels more in the dwelling,
- Lord of the Weders, though they lay all around him, Than the head and the handle handsome with jewels;

The giant-sword melts.

1 'pæs monige gewearb' (1599) and 'hafab bæs geworden' (2027).—In a paper published some years ago in one of the Johns Hopkins University circulars, I tried to throw upon these two long-doubtful passages some light derived from a study of like passages in Alfred's prose.—The impersonal verb 'geweorban,' with an accus. of the person, and a bæt-clause is used several times with the meaning 'agree.' See Orosius (Sweet's ed.) 178<sub>7</sub>; 204<sub>24</sub>; 208<sub>28</sub>; 210<sub>16</sub>; 280<sub>20</sub>. In the two Beowulf passages, the bæt-clause is anticipated by 'bæs,' which is clearly a gen. of the thing agreed on.

The first passage (v. 1599 (b)-1600) I translate literally: Then many agreed upon this (namely), that the sea-wolf had killed him.

The second passage (v. 2025 (b)-2027): She is promised...; to this the friend of the Scyldings has agreed, etc. By emending 'is' instead of 'wæs' (2025), the tenses will be brought into perfect harmony.

In v. 1997 ff. this same idiom occurs, and was noticed in B.'s great article on Beowulf, which appeared about the time I published my reading of 1599 and 2027. Translate 1997 then: Wouldst let the South-Danes themselves decide about their struggle with Grendel. Here 'Sto-Dene' is accus. of person, and 'gáte' is gen. of thing agreed on.

With such collateral support as that afforded by B. (P. and B. XII. 97), I have no hesitation in departing from H.-So., my usual guide.

The idiom above treated runs through A.-S., Old Saxon, and other Teutonic languages, and should be noticed in the lexicons.

### 56

# Beowulf.

The hero swims back to the realms of day. The brand early melted, burnt was the weapon: 1 So hot was the blood, the strange-spirit poisonous That in it did perish. He early swam off then Who had bided in combat the carnage of haters, Went up through the ocean; the eddies were cleansed, The spacious expanses, when the spirit from farland His life put aside and this short-lived existence. The seamen's defender came swimming to land then

- 65 Doughty of spirit, rejoiced in his sea-gift, The bulky burden which he bore in his keeping. The excellent vassals advanced then to meet him, To God they were grateful, were glad in their chieftain, That to see him safe and sound was granted them.
- From the high-minded hero, then, helmet and burnie Were speedily loosened: the ocean was putrid,
  The water 'neath welkin weltered with gore.
  Forth did they fare, then, their footsteps retracing,
  Merry and mirthful, measured the earth-way,
- 75 The highway familiar: men very daring <sup>2</sup>
  Bare then the head from the sea-cliff, burdening
  Each of the earlmen, excellent-valiant.
  Four of them had to carry with labor
  The head of Grendel to the high towering gold-hall
- 80 Upstuck on the spear, till fourteen most-valiant
  And battle-brave Geatmen came there going
  Straight to the palace: the prince of the people
  Measured the mead-ways, their mood-brave companion.
  The atheling of earlmen entered the building,
- 85 Deed-valiant man, adorned with distinction, Doughty shield-warrior, to address King Hrothgar:

¹ 'Bréden-mæl' is regarded by most scholars as meaning a damaskeened sword. Translate: The damaskeened sword burned up. Cf. 2516 and note.

<sup>2</sup> 'Cyning-balde' (1635) is the much-disputed reading of K. and Th. To render this, "nobly bold," "excellently bold," have been suggested. B. would read 'cyning-holde' (cf. 290), and render: Men well-disposed towards the king carried the head, etc. 'Cynebealde,' says t. B., endorsing Gr.

### It takes four men to carry Grendel's head on a spear.

Then hung by the hair, the head of Grendel Was borne to the building, where beer-thanes were drinking, Loth before earlmen and eke 'fore the lady:

90 The warriors beheld then a wonderful sight.

### XXV.

#### BEOWULF BRINGS HIS TROPHIES. - HROTHGAR'S GRATITUDE.

Beowulf spake, offspring of Ecgtheow:
"Lo! we blithely have brought thee, bairn of Healfdene,
Prince of the Scyldings, these presents from ocean
Which thine eye looketh on, for an emblem of glory.

- I came off alive from this, narrowly 'scaping:
  In war 'neath the water the work with great pains I
  Performed, and the fight had been finished quite nearly,
  Had God not defended me. I failed in the battle
  Aught to accomplish, aided by Hrunting,
- Though that weapon was worthy, but the Wielder of earth-folk Gave me willingly to see on the wall a

  Heavy old hand-sword hanging in splendor
  (He guided most often the lorn and the friendless),
  That I swung as a weapon. The wards of the house then
- I killed in the conflict (when occasion was given me).

  Then the battle-sword burned, the brand that was lifted,<sup>1</sup>
  As the blood-current sprang, hottest of war-sweats;

  Seizing the hilt, from my foes I offbore it;
  I avenged as I ought to their acts of malignity,
- The murder of Danemen. I then make thee this promise,
  Thou'lt be able in Heorot careless to slumber
  With thy throng of heroes and the thanes of thy people
  Every and each, of greater and lesser,

And thou needest not fear for them from the selfsame direction as thou formerly fearedst, oh, folk-lord of Scyldings,

1 Or rather, perhaps, 'the inlaid, or damaskeened weapon.' Cf. 2457 and note.

Beowulf relates his 165 last exploit.

57

God was fighting with me.

Heorot is freed from monsters.



### 58

# Beowulf.

The famous sword is presented to Hrothgar.

End-day for earlmen." To the age-hoary man then, The gray-haired chieftain, the gold-fashioned sword-hilt. Old-work of giants, was thereupon given; Since the fall of the fiends, it fell to the keeping 30. Of the wielder of Danemen, the wonder-smith's labor, And the bad-mooded being abandoned this world then, Opponent of God, victim of murder, And also his mother; it went to the keeping Of the best of the world-kings, where waters encircle, Who the scot divided in Scylding dominion. Hrothgar discoursed, the hilt he regarded. The ancient heirloom where an old-time contention's Beginning was graven: the gurgling currents,

Hrothgar looks closely at the old sword.

The flood slew thereafter the race of the giants.

It had belonged to a race hateful to God.

- They had proved themselves daring: that people was loth to The Lord everlasting, through lash of the billows The Father gave them final requital. So in letters of rune on the clasp of the handle Gleaming and golden, 'twas graven exactly,
- 45 Set forth and said, whom that sword had been made for, Finest of irons, who first it was wrought for, Wreathed at its handle and gleaming with serpents. The wise one then said (silent they all were) Son of old Healfdene: "He may say unrefuted

#### Hrothgar praises Beowulf.

- 50 Who performs 'mid the folk-men fairness and truth (The hoary old ruler remembers the past), That better by birth is this bairn of the nobles! Thy fame is extended through far-away countries, Good friend Beowulf, o'er all of the races,
- 55 Thou holdest all firmly, hero-like strength with Prudence of spirit. I'll prove myself grateful As before we agreed on; thou granted for long shalt Become a great comfort to kinsmen and comrades, A help unto heroes. Heremod became not

Heremod's career is again contrasted with Beowulf's.

Such to the Scyldings, successors of Ecgwela; He grew not to please them, but grievous destruction,



And diresome death-woes to Danemen attracted; He slew in anger his table-companions, Trustworthy counsellors, till he turned off lonely

- 65 From world-joys away, wide-famous ruler:
  Though high-ruling heaven in hero-strength raised him,
  In might exalted him, o'er men of all nations
  Made him supreme, yet a murderous spirit
  Grew in his bosom: he gave then no ring-gems
- To the Danes after custom; endured he unjoyful Standing the straits from strife that was raging,
  Longsome folk-sorrow. Learn then from this,
  Lay hold of virtue! Though laden with winters,
  I have sung thee these measures. "Tis a marvel to tell it,
- 75 How all-ruling God from greatness of spirit
  Giveth wisdom to children of men,
  Manor and earlship: all things He ruleth.
  He often permitteth the mood-thought of man of
  The illustrious lineage to lean to possessions,
- 80 Allows him earthly delights at his manor,
  A high-burg of heroes to hold in his keeping,
  Maketh portions of earth-folk hear him,
  And a wide-reaching kingdom so that, wisdom failing him,
  He himself is unable to reckon its boundaries;
- 85 He liveth in luxury, little debars him, Nor sickness nor age, no treachery-sorrow Becloudeth his spirit, conflict nowhere, No sword-hate, appeareth, but all of the world doth Wend as he wisheth; the worse he knoweth not,
- Till arrant arrogance inward pervading, Waxeth and springeth, when the warder is sleeping, The guard of the soul: with sorrows encompassed, Too sound is his slumber, the slayer is near him, Who with bow and arrow aimeth in malice.

A wretched failure of a king, to give no jewels to his retainers.

Hrothgar moralizes.



60

# Beowulf.

#### XXVI.

### HROTHGAR MORALIZES .- REST AFTER LABOR.

A wininged pedale.

"Then bruised in his bosom he with bitter-toothed missile 1750 In hurt 'neath his belinet: from harmful pollution He is powerless to shield him by the wonderful mandates. Of the loath cursed spirit; what too long he hath holden

- Ilim seemeth too small, savage he hoardeth. Nor boastfully giveth gold-plated rings,1 The fate of the future flouts and forgetteth Since God had crst given him greatness no little. Wielder of Glory. His end-day anear,
- to It afterward happens that the bodily-dwelling Electingly fadeth, falls into ruins; Another lays hold who doleth the ornaments, The nobleman's jewels, nothing lamenting, Heedeth no terror. Oh, Beowulf dear,
- 14 Best of the heroes, from bale-strife defend thee. And choose thee the better, counsels eternal; Beware of arrogance, world-famous champion! But a little-while lasts thy life-vigor's fulness; "I'will after hap early, that illness or sword-edge Shall part thee from strength, or the grasp of the fire,
  - Or the wave of the current, or clutch of the edges, Or flight of the war-spear, or age with its horrors, Or thine eyes' bright flashing shall fade into darkness: "I will happen full early, excellent hero,

Handhgar gives an ac at the impression 14641

He not over proud; life is fleeting, and

its strength mun

wasteth away.

That death shall sulviue thee. So the Danes a half-century I held under heaven, helped them in struggles 'Gainst many a race in middle-earth's regions, With ash-wood and edges, that enemies none On earth molested me. Lo! offsetting change, now,

1 K. mays ' sevently grievel,' — (it. mays, ' And gives no gold-plated rings, in when A main the encircular to heastfulness." - R. suggests 'grld' for 'grlp.' and readers: And gives as beaten rings for remard.

61

- 30 Came to my manor, grief after joyance,
  When Grendel became my constant visitor,
  Inveterate hater: I from that malice
  Continually travailed with trouble no little.
  Thanks be to God that I gained in my lifetime,
- To the Lord everlasting, to look on the gory
  Head with mine eyes, after long-lasting sorrow!
  Go to the bench now, battle-adorned
  Joy in the feasting: of jewels in common
  We'll meet with many when morning appeareth."
- The Geatman was gladsome, ganged he immediately To go to the bench, as the clever one bade him.

  Then again as before were the famous-for-prowess, Hall-inhabiters, handsomely banqueted, Feasted anew. The night-veil fell then
- The gray-haired was anxious to go to his slumbers,
  The hoary old Scylding. Hankered the Geatman,
  The champion doughty, greatly, to rest him:
  An earlman early outward did lead him,
- 50 Fagged from his faring, from far-country springing, Who for etiquette's sake all of a liegeman's Needs regarded, such as seamen at that time Were bounden to feel. The big-hearted rested; The building uptowered, spacious and gilded,
- The guest within slumbered, till the sable-clad raven
  Blithely foreboded the beacon of heaven.
  Then the bright-shining sun o'er the bottoms came going;
  The warriors hastened, the heads of the peoples
  Were ready to go again to their peoples,
- 60 The high-mooded farer would faraway thenceward Look for his vessel. The valiant one bade then,<sup>2</sup>

Sorrow after joy.

Beowulf is fagged, and seeks rest.

The Geats prepare to leave Dane-land.

<sup>1</sup> If S.'s emendation be accepted, v. 57 will read: Then came the light, going bright after darkness: the warriors, etc.

<sup>2</sup> As the passage stands in H.-So., Unferth presents Beowulf with the sword Hrunting, and B. thanks him for the gift. If, however, the suggestions of Grdtvg.



62

# Beowulf.

Unferth asks Beowulf to accept his sword as a gift. Beowulf thanks him. Offspring of Ecglaf, off to bear Hrunting,
To take his weapon, his well-beloved iron;
He him thanked for the gift, saying good he accounted
The war-friend and mighty, nor chid he with words then
The blade of the brand: 'twas a brave-mooded hero.
When the warriors were ready, arrayed in their trappings,
The atheling dear to the Danemen advanced then
On to the dais, where the other was sitting,
Grim-mooded hero, greeted King Hrothgar.

#### XXVII.

### SORROW AT PARTING.

1818

Beowulf's farewell.

Beowulf spake, Ecgtheow's offspring:
"We men of the water wish to declare now
Fared from far-lands, we're firmly determined
To seek King Higelac. Here have we fitly

5 Been welcomed and feasted, as heart would desire it; Good was the greeting. If greater affection I am anywise able ever on earth to Gain at thy hands, ruler of heroes, Than yet I have done, I shall quickly be ready

I shall be ever ready to aid thee.

For combat and conflict. O'er the course of the waters
Learn I that neighbors alarm thee with terror,
As haters did whilom, I hither will bring thee
For help unto heroes henchmen by thousands.
I know as to Higelac, the lord of the Geatmen,
Though young in years he yet will permit me

My liegelord will encourage me in aiding thee.

Though young in years, he yet will permit me,
By words and by works, ward of the people,
Fully to furnish thee forces and bear thee
My lance to relieve thee, if liegemen shall fail thee,
And help of my hand-strength; if Hrethric be treating,

and M. be accepted, the passage will read: Then the brave one (i.e. Beowulf) commanded that Hrunting be borne to the son of Ecglaf (Unferth), bade him take his sword, his dear weapon; he (B.) thanked him (U.) for the loan, etc.



- Bairn of the king, at the court of the Geatmen, He thereat may find him friends in abundance: Faraway countries he were better to seek for Who trusts in himself." Hrothgar discoursed then, Making rejoinder: "These words thou hast uttered
- 25 All-knowing God hath given thy spirit! Ne'er heard I an earlman thus early in life More clever in speaking: thou'rt cautious of spirit, Mighty of muscle, in mouth-answers prudent. I count on the hope that, happen it ever
- That missile shall rob thee of Hrethel's descendant, Edge-horrid battle, and illness or weapon Deprive thee of prince, of people's protector, And life thou yet holdest, the Sea-Geats will never Find a more fitting folk-lord to choose them,
- 35 Gem-ward of heroes, than thou mightest prove thee, If the kingdom of kinsmen thou carest to govern. Thy mood-spirit likes me the longer the better, Beowulf dear: thou hast brought it to pass that To both these peoples peace shall be common,
- To Geat-folk and Danemen, the strife be suspended,
  The secret assailings they suffered in yore-days;
  And also that jewels be shared while I govern
  The wide-stretching kingdom, and that many shall visit
  Others o'er the ocean with excellent gift-gems:
- 45 The ring-adorned bark shall bring o'er the currents
  Presents and love-gifts. This people I know
  Tow'rd foeman and friend firmly established,
  After ancient etiquette everywise blameless."
  Then the warden of earlmen gave him still farther,
- 50 Kinsman of Healfdene, a dozen of jewels, Bade him safely seek with the presents His well-beloved people, early returning.

friends.

His well-beloved people, early returning.

1 For 'geworhte,' the crux of this passage, B. proposes 'gebohte,' rendering:

I know this people with firm thought every way blameless towards foe and

O Beowulf, thou art wise beyond thy years.

Should Higelac die, the Geats could find no better successor than thou wouldst make.

Thou hast healed the ancient breach between our races.

Parting gifts.

#### Hrothgar kisses Beowulf, and weeps.

The old king is

factor.

deeply grieved to

part with his bene-

Then the noble-born king kissed the distinguished, Dear-lovèd liegeman, the Dane-prince saluted him,

- And claspèd his neck; tears from him fell,
  From the gray-headed man: he two things expected,
  Agèd and reverend, but rather the second,

  That bold in council they'd meet thereafter.
  The man was so dear that he failed to suppress the
- 60 Emotions that moved him, but in mood-fetters fastened The long-famous hero longeth in secret Deep in his spirit for the dear-beloved man Though not a blood-kinsman. Beowulf thenceward, Gold-splendid warrior, walked o'er the meadows
- 65 Exulting in treasure: the sea-going vessel
  Riding at anchor awaited its owner.
  As they pressed on their way then, the present of Hrothgar
  Was frequently referred to: a folk-king indeed that
  Everyway blameless, till age did debar him

Giving liberally is the true proof of kingship.

70 The joys of his might, which hath many oft-injured.

### XXVIII.

## THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY.—THE TWO QUEENS.

Then the band of very valiant retainers

Came to the current; they were clad all in armor,

In link-woven burnies. The land-warder noticed

The return of the earlmen, as he erstwhile had seen them;

The coast-guard again.

5 Nowise with insult he greeted the strangers
From the naze of the cliff, but rode on to meet them;
Said the bright-armored visitors 2 vesselward traveled

<sup>1</sup> S. and B. emend so as to negative the verb 'meet.' "Why should Hrothgar weep if he expects to meet Beowulf again?" both these scholars ask. But the weeping is mentioned before the 'expectations': the tears may have been due to many emotions, especially gratitude, struggling for expression.

<sup>2</sup> For 'scawan' (1896), 'scawan' has been proposed. Accepting this, we may render: He said the bright-armored warriors were going to their vessel, welcome, etc. (Cf. 1804.)



Welcome to Weders. The wide-bosomed craft then Lay on the sand, laden with armor,

With horses and jewels, the ring-stemmed sailer:

The mast uptowered o'er the treasure of Hrothgar.

To the boat-ward a gold-bound brand he presented,

That he was afterwards honored on the ale-bench more highly sword.

As the heirloom's owner. <sup>1</sup>Set he out on his vessel,

Beowulf gives the guard a handsome sword.

- To drive on the deep, Dane-country left he. Along by the mast then a sea-garment fluttered, A rope-fastened sail. The sea-boat resounded, The wind o'er the waters the wave-floater nowise Kept from its journey; the sea-goer traveled,
- The foamy-necked floated forth o'er the currents,
  The well-fashioned vessel o'er the ways of the ocean,
  Till they came within sight of the cliffs of the Geatmen,
  The well-known headlands. The wave-goer hastened
  Driven by breezes, stood on the shore.

Prompt at the ocean, the port-ward was ready,
 Who long in the past outlooked in the distance,<sup>2</sup>
 At water's-edge waiting well-loved heroes;
 He bound to the bank then the broad-bosomed vessel
 Fast in its fetters, lest the force of the waters

Should be able to injure the ocean-wood winsome. Bade he up then take the treasure of princes, Plate-gold and fretwork; not far was it thence To go off in search of the giver of jewels: The Geats see their own land again.

The port-warden is anxiously looking for them.

<sup>1</sup> R. suggests, 'Gewát him on naca,' and renders: The vessel set out, to drive on the sea, the Dane-country left. 'On' bears the alliteration; cf. 'on hasu' (2524). This has some advantages over the H.-So. reading; viz. (1) It adds nothing to the text; (2) it makes 'naca' the subject, and thus brings the passage into keeping with the context, where the poet has exhausted his vocabulary in detailing the actions of the vessel. — B.'s emendation (cf. P. and B. XII. 97) is violent.

<sup>2</sup> B. translates: Who for a long time, ready at the coast, had looked out into the distance eagerly for the dear men. This changes the syntax of 'léofra manna'

Hygd, the noble queen of Higelac, lavish of gifts.

Offa's consort, Thrytho, is contrasted with Hygd.

She is a terror to all save her husband.

- Hrethel's son Higelac at home there remaineth,¹
  Himself with his comrades close to the sea-coast.
  The building was splendid, the king heroic,
  Great in his hall, Hygd very young was,
  Fine-mooded, clever, though few were the winters
  That the daughter of Hæreth had dwelt in the borough;
- But she nowise was cringing nor niggard of presents,
  Of ornaments rare, to the race of the Geatmen.
  Thrytho nursed anger, excellent 2 folk-queen,
  Hot-burning hatred: no hero whatever
  'Mong household companions, her husband excepted,
  Dared to adventure to look at the woman
  - With eyes in the daytime; <sup>3</sup> but he knew that death-chains Hand-wreathed were wrought him: early thereafter, When the hand-strife was over, edges were ready, That fierce-raging sword-point had to force a decision,
- Murder-bale show. Such no womanly custom For a lady to practise, though lovely her person, That a weaver-of-peace, on pretence of anger A beloved liegeman of life should deprive. Soothly this hindered Heming's kinsman;
- That fearful folk-sorrows fewer she wrought them,
  Treacherous doings, since first she was given
  Adorned with gold to the war-hero youthful,
  For her origin honored, when Offa's great palace
- 60 O'er the fallow flood by her father's instructions
  She sought on her journey, where she afterwards fully,
  Famed for her virtue, her fate on the king's-seat

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For 'wunab' (v. 1924) several eminent critics suggest 'wunade' (= remained). This makes the passage much clearer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Why should such a woman be described as an 'excellent' queen? C. suggests 'frécnu' = dangerous, bold.

For 'an dæges' various readings have been offered. If 'and-éges' be accepted, the sentence will read: No hero . . . dared look upon her, eye to eye. If 'an-dæges' be adopted, translate: Dared look upon her the whole day.

67

Enjoyed in her lifetime, love did she hold with
The ruler of heroes, the best, it is told me,

65 Of all of the earthmen that oceans encompass,
Of earl-kindreds endless; hence Offa was famous
Far and widely, by gifts and by battles,
Spear-valiant hero; the home of his fathers
He governed with wisdom, whence Eomær did issue

70 For help unto heroes, Heming's kinsman,
Grandson of Garmund, great in encounters.

#### XXIX.

#### BEOWULF AND HIGELAC.

Then the brave one departed, his band along with him,
Seeking the sea-shore, the sea-marches treading,
The wide-stretching shores. The world-candle glimmered,
The sun from the southward; they proceeded then onward,
Early arriving where they heard that the troop-lord,
Ongentheow's slayer, excellent, youthful
Folk-prince and warrior was distributing jewels,
Close in his castle. The coming of Beowulf
Was announced in a message quickly to Higelac,
That the folk-troop's defender forth to the palace

That the folk-troop's defender forth to the palace
The linden-companion alive was advancing,
Secure from the combat courtward a-going.
The building was early inward made ready
For the foot-going guests as the good one had ordered.

15 He sat by the man then who had lived through the struggle, Kinsman by kinsman, when the king of the people Had in lordly language saluted the dear one, In words that were formal. The daughter of Hæreth Coursed through the building, carrying mead-cups: 1

Beowulf and his party seek Higelac.

Beowulf sits by his liegelord.

Queen Hygd receives the heroes.

<sup>1</sup> 'Meodu-scencum' (1981) some would render 'with mead-pourers.' Translate then: The daughter of Hareth went through the building accompanied by mead-pourers.

Higelac is greatly interested in Beowulf's adventures. 20 She loved the retainers, tendered the beakers To the high-minded Geatmen. Higelac 'gan then Pleasantly plying his companion with questions In the high-towering palace. A curious interest Tormented his spirit, what meaning to see in

Give an account of thy adventures, Beowulf dear.

been great.

The Sea-Geats' adventures: "Beowulf worthy, How throve your journeying, when thou thoughtest suddenly. Far o'er the salt-streams to seek an encounter. A battle at Heorot? Hast bettered for Hrothgar. The famous folk-leader, his far-published sorrows

My suspense has

Any at all? In agony-billows I mused upon torture, distrusted the journey Of the beloved liegeman; I long time did pray thee By no means to seek out the murderous spirit, To suffer the South-Danes themselves to decide on 1

Grappling with Grendel. To God I am thankful To be suffered to see thee safe from thy journey." Beowulf answered, bairn of old Ecgtheow: "'Tis hidden by no means, Higelac chieftain, From many of men, the meeting so famous,

Beowulf narrates his adventures.

> 40 What mournful moments of me and of Grendel Were passed in the place where he pressing affliction On the Victory-Scyldings scathefully brought, Anguish forever; that all I avenged, So that any under heaven of the kinsmen of Grendel

Grendel's kindred 45 have no cause to boast.

Needeth not boast of that cry-in-the-morning, Who longest liveth of the loth-going kindred,3 Encompassed by moorland. I came in my journey To the royal ring-hall, Hrothgar to greet there: Soon did the famous scion of Healfdene,

Hrothgar received me very cordially.

When he understood fully the spirit that led me, Assign me a seat with the son of his bosom.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See my note to 1599, supra, and B. in P. and B. XII. 97. <sup>2</sup> For 'fenne,' supplied by Grdtvg., B. suggests 'facne' (cf. Jul. 350). Accepting this, translate: Who longest lives of the hated race, steeped in treachery.

69

The troop was in joyance; mead-glee greater
'Neath arch of the ether not ever beheld I
'Mid hall-building holders. The highly-famed queen,
Peace-tie of peoples, oft passed through the building,
Cheered the young troopers; she oft tendered a hero
A beautiful ring-band, ere she went to her sitting.
Oft the daughter of Hrothgar in view of the courtiers
To the earls at the end the ale-vessel carried,

Hrothgar's lovely daughter.

The queen also showed us no little

honor.

60 Whom Freaware I heard then hall-sitters title, When nail-adorned jewels she gave to the heroes: Gold-bedecked, youthful, to the glad son of Froda Her faith has been plighted; the friend of the Scyldings, The guard of the kingdom, hath given his sanction,¹

She is betrothed to Ingeld, in order to unite the Danes and Heathobards.

6; And counts it a vantage, for a part of the quarrels,
A portion of hatred, to pay with the woman.

2 Somewhere not rarely, when the ruler has fallen,
The life-taking lance relaxeth its fury
For a brief breathing-spell, though the bride be charming!

#### XXX.

### BEOWULF NARRATES HIS ADVENTURES TO HIGELAC.

"It well may discomfit the prince of the Heathobards And each of the thanemen of earls that attend him,

<sup>1</sup> See note to v. 1599 above.

This is perhaps the least understood sentence in the poem, almost every word being open to dispute. (1) The 'n6' of our text is an emendation, and is rejected by many scholars. (2) 'Seldan' is by some taken as an adv. (= seldom), and by others as a noun (= page, companion). (3) 'Léodhryre,' some render 'fall of the people'; others, 'fall of the prince.' (4) 'Bágeð,' most scholars regard as the intrans. verb meaning 'bend,' 'rest'; but one great scholar has translated it 'shall kill.' (5) 'Hwær,' very recently, has been attacked, 'wære' being suggested. (6) As a corollary to the above, the same critic proposes to drop 'oft' out of the text.—t. B. suggests: Oft seldan wære after léodhryre: lýtle hwíle bongár bágeð, þéah séo brýd duge = often has a treaty been (thus) struck, after a prince had fallen: (but only) a short time is the spear (then) wont to rest, however excellent the bride may be.

An ancient ash-warrior who earlmen's des-Clearly recalleth (cruel his spirit), Sadly beginneth sounding the youthful Thane-champion's spirit through the thou

War-grief to waken, and this word-answer Ingeld is stirred up 15 'Art thou able, my friend, to know when to break the truce.

The brand which thy father bare to the co In his latest adventure, 'neath visor of hel The dearly-loved iron, where Danemen de

And brave-mooded Scyldings, on the fall (When vengeance was sleeping) the slaug

E'en now some man of the murderer's pro Exulting in ornaments enters the building Boasts of his blood-shedding, offbeareth 1

Which thou shouldst wholly hold in posse

So he urgeth and mindeth on every occas
With woe-bringing words, till waxeth the

When the woman's thane for the works o The bill having bitten, blood-gory sleepet Fated to perish; the other one thencewa

30 'Scapeth alive, the land knoweth thorough Then the oaths of the earlmen on each sing When rancors unresting are raging in Inguity And his wife-love waxeth less warm after the Hastbahards' favor not faithful I.

Having made these

71

More about Grendel, that thou fully mayst hear,
Ornament-giver, what afterward came from
The hand-rush of heroes. When the jewel of heaven
O'er earthfields had gilded, the stranger came raging,
The horrible night-fiend, us for to visit,
Where wholly unharmed the hall we were guarding.
To Hondscio happened a hopeless contention,
Death to the doomed one, dead he fell foremost,
Girded war-champion: to him Grendel became then.

preliminary statements, I will now tell thee of Grendel, the monster.

To the vassal distinguished, a tooth-weaponed murderer,
The well-beloved henchman's body all swallowed.
Not the earlier off empty of hand did
The bloody-toothed murderer, mindful of evils,
Wish to escape from the gold-giver's palace,

Hondscio fell first.

But sturdy of strength he strove to outdo me, Hand-ready grappled. A glove was suspended Spacious and wondrous, in art-fetters fastened, Which was fashioned entirely by touch of the craftman 55 From the dragon's skin by the devil's devices:

He down in its depths would do me unsadly
One among many, deed-doer raging,
Though sinless he saw me; not so could it happen
When I in my anger upright did stand.

Tis too long to recount how requital I furnished For every evil to the earlmen's destroyer;
Twas there, my prince, that I proudly distinguished Thy land with my labors. He left and retreated, He lived his life a little while longer:

I reflected honor upon my people.

65 Yet his right-hand guarded his footstep in Heorot,
And sad-mooded thence to the sea-bottom fell he,
Mournful in mind. For the might-rush of battle
The friend of the Scyldings, with gold that was plated,
With ornaments many, much requited me,

King Hrothgar lavished gifts upon me.

When daylight had dawned, and down to the banquet
 We had sat us together. There was chanting and joyance:
 The age-stricken Scylding asked many questions



And of old-times related; oft light-ringing harp-strings,

The old king is sad over the loss of his youthful

vigor.

72

Joy-telling wood, were touched by the brave one;
Now he uttered measures, mourning and truthful,
Then the large-hearted land-king a legend of wonder
Truthfully told us. Now troubled with years
The age-hoary warrior afterward began to
Mourn for the might that marked him in youth-days;
His breast within boiled, when burdened with winters
Much he remembered. From morning till night then
We joyed us therein as etiquette suffered,
Till the second night season came unto earth-folk.
Then early thereafter, the mother of Grendel

Grendel's mother. 85

Was ready for vengeance, wretched she journeyed;
Her son had death ravished, the wrath of the Geatmen.
The horrible woman avenged her offspring,
And with mighty mainstrength murdered a hero.
There the spirit of Æschere, aged adviser,

Æschere falls a prey to her vengeance.

Was ready to vanish; nor when morn had lightened Were they anywise suffered to consume him with fire, Folk of the Danemen, the death-weakened hero, Nor the beloved liegeman to lay on the pyre; She the corpse had offcarried in the clutch of the foeman<sup>1</sup>

She suffered not his body to be burned, but ate it. 95

'Neath mountain-brook's flood. To Hrothgar 'twas saddest Of pains that ever had preyed on the chieftain; By the life of thee the land-prince then me <sup>2</sup>
Besought very sadly, in sea-currents' eddies
To display my prowess, to peril my safety,
 Might-deeds accomplish; much did he promise.

I sought the creature in her den, I found then the famous flood-current's cruel,
Horrible depth-warder. A while unto us two

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For 'fæomum,' Gr.'s conjecture, B. proposes 'férunga.' These three half-verses would then read: She bore off the corpse of her foe suddenly under the mountain-torrent.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The phrase 'pine lyfe' (2132) was long rendered 'with thy (presupposed) permission.' The verse would read: The land-prince then sadly besought me, with thy (presupposed) permission, etc.

Hand was in common; the currents were seething
With gore that was clotted, and Grendel's fierce mother's
Head I offhacked in the hall at the bottom
With huge-reaching sword-edge, hardly I wrested
My life from her clutches; not doomed was I then,
But the warden of earlmen afterward gave me
Jewels in quantity, kinsman of Healfdene.

and hewed her head off.

73

Jewels were freely bestowed upon me.

### XXXI.

### GIFT-GIVING IS MUTUAL.

"So the beloved land-prince lived in decorum;
I had missed no rewards, no meeds of my prowess,
But he gave me jewels, regarding my wishes,
Healfdene his bairn; I'll bring them to thee, then,
Atheling of earlmen, offer them gladly.
And still unto thee is all my affection:

But few of my folk-kin find I surviving

But few of my folk-kin find I surviving
But thee, dear Higelac!" Bade he in then to carry<sup>2</sup>
The boar-image, banner, battle-high helmet,

Iron-gray armor, the excellent weapon,
In song-measures said: "This suit-for-the-battle
Hrothgar presented me, bade me expressly,
Wise-mooded atheling, thereafter to tell thee<sup>3</sup>
The whole of its history, said King Heregar owned it,

Dane-prince for long: yet he wished not to give then

All my gifts I lay at thy feet.

This armor I have belonged of yore to Heregar.

<sup>1</sup> This verse B. renders, 'Now serve I again thee alone as my gracious king.'
<sup>2</sup> For 'eafor' (2153), Kl. suggests 'ealdor.' Translate then: Bade the prince then to bear in the banner, battle-high helmet, etc. On the other hand, W. takes 'eaforhéafodsegn' as a compound, meaning 'helmet': He bade them bear in the helmet, battle-high helm, gray armor, etc.

<sup>8</sup> The H.-So. rendering (ærest = history, origin; 'eft' for 'est'), though liable to objection, is perhaps the best offered. 'That I should very early tell . thee of his favor, kindness' sounds well; but 'his' is badly placed to limit 'ést.'—Perhaps, 'eft' with verbs of saying may have the force of Lat. prefix 're,' and the H.-So. reading mean, 'that I should its origin rehearse to thee.'

The mail to his son, though dearly he loved him, Hereward the hardy. Hold all in joyance!" I heard that there followed hard on the jewels Two braces of stallions of striking resemblance, 20 Dappled and yellow; he granted him usance Of horses and treasures. So a kinsman should bear him. No web of treachery weave for another. Nor by cunning craftiness cause the destruction Of trusty companion. Most precious to Higelac, The bold one in battle, was the bairn of his sister.

Hiselac loves his nephew Beowulf.

Beowulf gives Hygd the necklace that Wealhtheow had given him.

Beowulf is famous.

He is requited for the slights suffered in earlier days.

Higelac overwhelms the conqueror with gifts.

And each unto other mindful of favors. I am told that to Hygd he proffered the necklace, Wonder-gem rare that Wealhtheow gave him, The troop-leader's daughter, a trio of horses 30 Slender and saddle-bright; soon did the jewel Embellish her bosom, when the beer-feast was over. So Ecgtheow's bairn brave did prove him, War-famous man, by deeds that were valiant. He lived in honor, beloved companions 35 Slew not carousing; his mood was not cruel,

But by hand-strength hugest of heroes then living The brave one retained the bountiful gift that The Lord had allowed him. Long was he wretched, So that sons of the Geatmen accounted him worthless, 40 And the lord of the liegemen loth was to do him

Mickle of honor, when mead-cups were passing; They fully believed him idle and sluggish, An indolent atheling: to the honor-blest man there Came requital for the cuts he had suffered.

The folk-troop's defender bade fetch to the building The heirloom of Hrethel, embellished with gold, So the brave one enjoined it; there was jewel no richer ' In the form of a weapon 'mong Geats of that era; In Beowulf's keeping he placed it and gave him Seven of thousands, manor and lordship.

Common to both was land 'mong the people.

**75** 

Estate and inherited rights and possessions,

To the second one specially spacious dominions,

To the one who was better. It afterward happened

In days that followed, befell the battle-thanes,

After Higelac's death, and when Heardred was murdered

With weapons of warfare 'neath well-covered targets,

When valiant battlemen in victor-band sought him,

War-Scylfing heroes harassed the nephew

Of Hereric in battle. To Beowulf's keeping

After Heardred's death, Beowulf becomes king.

Of Hereric in battle. To Beowulf's keeping
Turned there in time extensive dominions:
He fittingly ruled them a fifty of winters
(He a man-ruler wise was, manor-ward old) till
A certain one 'gan, on gloom-darkening nights, a

He rules the Geats fifty years.

65 Dragon, to govern, who guarded a treasure,
A high-rising stone-cliff, on heath that was grayish:
A path 'neath it lay, unknown unto mortals.
Some one of earthmen entered the mountain,
The heathenish hoard laid hold of with ardor;

The fire-drake,

### XXXII.

### THE HOARD AND THE DRAGON.

He sought of himself who sorely did harm him,
But, for need very pressing, the servant of one of
The sons of the heroes hate-blows evaded,
Seeking for shelter and the sin-driven warrior
Took refuge within there. He early looked in it,

Of the flower of the folk who fared thei Was fain to defer it, friend-mourning w. A little longer to be left in enjoyment

20 Of long-lasting treasure. A barrow all Stood on the plain the stream-currents New by the ness-edge, unnethe of appr. The keeper of rings carried within a 2 Ponderous deal of the treasure of nobl

The ring-giver bewails the loss of retainers.

25 Of gold that was beaten, briefly he spak "Hold thou, O Earth, now heroes no n The earnings of earlmen. Lo! erst in t Worthy men won them; war-death hath Perilous life-bale, all my warriors,

Pernous life-bale, all my warnors,

Liegemen beloved, who this life have for Who hall-pleasures saw. No sword-bea:
And no one to burnish the gold-plated v
The high-valued beaker: my heroes are
The hardy helmet behung with gilding

Shall be reaved of its riches: the ring-cl
Who were charged to have ready visors-

<sup>1</sup> For 'long-gestréona,' B. suggests 'láengestréona

And the burnie that bided in battle-enco

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For 'long-gestréona,' B. suggests 'láengestréons treasures. S. accepts H.'s 'long-gestréona, but re



O'er breaking of war-shields the bite of the edges Moulds with the hero. The ring-twisted armor, Its lord being lifeless, no longer may journey Hanging by heroes; harp-joy is vanished, The rapture of glee-wood, no excellent falcon Swoops through the building, no swift-footed charger

Grindeth the gravel. A grievous destruction

So, woful of spirit one after all
Lamented mournfully, moaning in sadness
By day and by night, till death with its billows
Dashed on his spirit. Then the ancient dusk-scather

Found the great treasure standing all open,
He who flaming and fiery flies to the barrows,
Naked war-dragon, nightly escapeth
Encompassed with fire; men under heaven
Widely beheld him. 'Tis said that he looks for'

The hoard in the earth, where old he is guarding
The heathenish treasure; he'll be nowise the better.
So three-hundred winters the waster of peoples
Held upon earth that excellent hoard-hall,
Till the forementioned earlman angered him bitterly:

The beat-plated beaker he bare to his chieftain
And fullest remission for all his remissness
Begged of his liegelord. Then the hoard was discovered,
The treasure was taken, his petition was granted
The lorn-mooded liegeman. His lord regarded

The old-work of earth-folk—'twas the earliest occasion.
When the dragon awoke, the strife was renewed there;
He snuffed 'long the stone then, stout-hearted found he

The fire-dragon.

The dragon meets his match.

The hero plunders the dragon's den.

<sup>1</sup> An earlier reading of H.'s gave the following meaning to this passage: He is said to inhabit a mound under the earth, where he, etc. The translation in the text is more authentic.

<sup>2</sup> The repetition of 'hord' in this passage has led some scholars to suggest new readings to avoid the second 'hord.' This, however, is not under the main stress, and, it seems to me, might easily be accepted.

- The dragon perceives that some one has disturbed his treasure.
- Sought for the gem-cup; 2 this he soc
  80 That some man or other had discover
  The famous folk-treasure. Not fain a
  Wait until evening; then the ward of
  Was angry in spirit, the loathed one v
  Pay for the dear-valued drink-cup wit

All of it outward; not any of earthm
Was seen in that desert. Yet he joy
Rejoiced in the conflict: oft he turne

85 Then the day was done as the dragon He no longer would wait on the wall, Fire-impelled, flaming. Fearful the s To earls in the land, as it early therea To their giver-of-gold was grievously

### The dragon is infuriated.

#### XXXIII.

#### BRAVE THOUGH AGED. - RE

The dragon spits fire.

The stranger began then to vomit for To burn the great manor; the blaze t For anguish to earlmen, not anything

<sup>1</sup> The reading of H.-So. is well defended in emends and renders: Nor was there any man:



Was the hateful air-goer willing to leave there.

- The war of the worm widely was noticed,
  The feud of the foeman afar and anear,
  How the enemy injured the earls of the Geatmen,
  Harried with hatred: back he hied to the treasure,
  To the well-hidden cavern ere the coming of daylight.
- 10 He had circled with fire the folk of those regions,
  With brand and burning; in the barrow he trusted,
  In the wall and his war-might: the weening deceived him.
  Then straight was the horror to Beowulf published,
  Early forsooth, that his own native homestead.
- The best of buildings, was burning and melting,
  Gift-seat of Geatmen. 'Twas a grief to the spirit
  Of the good-mooded hero, the greatest of sorrows:
  The wise one weened then that wielding his kingdom
  'Gainst the ancient commandments, he had bitterly angered
- The Lord everlasting: with lorn meditations
  His bosom welled inward, as was nowise his custom.
  The fire-spewing dragon fully had wasted
  The fastness of warriors, the water-land outward,
  The manor with fire. The folk-ruling hero,
- 25 Prince of the Weders, was planning to wreak him. The warmen's defender bade them to make him, Earlmen's atheling, an excellent war-shield Wholly of iron: fully he knew then

  That wood from the forest was helpless to aid him,
- Shield against fire. The long-worthy ruler Must live the last of his limited earth-days, Of life in the world and the worm along with him, Though he long had been holding hoard-wealth in plenty. Then the ring-prince disdained to seek with a war-band,
- With army extensive, the air-going ranger;
  He felt no fear of the foeman's assaults and
  He counted for little the might of the dragon,

1 'Hám' (2326), the suggestion of B. is accepted by t. B. and other scholars.

Beowulf hears of the havoc wrought by the dragon.

He fears that Heaven is punishing him for some crime.

He orders an iron shield to be made for him; wood is useless.

He determines to

Beowulf's early triumphs referred A heap of hostility, hazarded dangers,
War-thane, when Hrothgar's palace he cleansed,
Conquering combatant, clutched in the battle
The kinsmen of Grendel, of kindred detested.¹
'Twas of hand-fights not least where Higelac was slaughtered,
When the king of the Geatmen with clashings of battle,

Higelac's death recalled.

45 Friend-lord of folks in Frisian dominions,
Offspring of Hrethrel perished through sword-drink,
With battle-swords beaten; thence Beowulf came then
On self-help relying, swam through the waters;
He bare on his arm, lone-going, thirty

His power and prowess: for previously dared he

- Outfits of armor, when the ocean he mounted.

  The Hetwars by no means had need to be boastful
  Of their fighting afoot, who forward to meet him
  Carried their war-shields: not many returned from
  The brave-mooded battle-knight back to their homesteads.
- 55 Ecgtheow's bairn o'er the bight-courses swam then,
  Lone-goer lorn to his land-folk returning,
  Where Hygd to him tendered treasure and kingdom,
  Rings and dominion: her son she not trusted,
  To be able to keep the kingdom devised him

Heardred's lack of capacity to rule.

Yet the sad ones succeeded not in persuading the atheling In any way ever, to act as a suzerain

To Heardred, or promise to govern the kingdom;

Yet with friendly counsel in the folk he sustained him,

Heowulf's tact and delicacy recalled.

65 Gracious, with honor, till he grew to be older,
 Wielded the Weders. Wide-fleeing outlaws,
 Ohthere's sons, sought him o'er the waters:
 They had stirred a revolt 'gainst the helm of the Scylfings,
 The best of the sea-kings, who in Swedish dominions
 Distributed treasure, distinguished folk-leader.

Reference is here made to a visit which Beowulf receives from Eanmund and Eadgils; why they come is not known.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For 'laban cynnes' (2355), t. B. suggests 'laban cynne,' apposition to 'mægum.' From syntactical and other considerations, this is a most excellent emendation.

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'Twas the end of his earth-days; injury fatal <sup>1</sup>
By swing of the sword he received as a greeting,
Offspring of Higelac; Ongentheow's bairn
Later departed to visit his homestead,
'55
When Heardred was dead; let Beowulf rule them,
Govern the Geatmen: good was that folk-king.

#### XXXIV.

### BEOWULF SEEKS THE DRAGON. - BEOWULF'S REMINISCENCES.

He planned requital for the folk-leader's ruin
In days thereafter, to Eadgils the wretched
Becoming an enemy. Ohthere's son then
Went with a war-troop o'er the wide-stretching currents
With warriors and weapons: with woe-journeys cold he

After avenged him, the king's life he took.

So he came off uninjured from all of his battles,
Perilous fights, offspring of Ecgtheow,
From his deeds of daring, till that day most momentous

When he fate-driven fared to fight with the dragon.
With eleven companions the prince of the Geatmen
Went lowering with fury to look at the fire-drake:
Inquiring he'd found how the feud had arisen,
Hate to his heroes; the highly-famed gem-vessel

Hate to his heroes; the highly-famed gem-vessel

Was brought to his keeping through the hand of th' informer.

That in the throng was thirteenth of heroes,
That caused the beginning of conflict so bitter,
Captive and wretched, must sad-mooded thenceward
Point out the place: he passed then unwillingly

To the spot where he knew of the notable cavern,
The cave under earth, not far from the ocean,
The anger of eddies, which inward was full of
Jewels and wires: a warden uncanny,

<sup>1</sup> Gr. read 'on feorme' (2386), rendering: He there at the banquet a fatal wound received by blows of the sword.

Beowulf has been preserved through many perils.

With eleven comrades, he seeks the dragon.

A guide leads the way, but

very reluctantly.

Warrior weaponed, wardered the treasure,

- 25 Old under earth; no easy possession

  For any of earth-folk access to get to.

  Then the battle-brave atheling sat on the naze-edge,
  While the gold-friend of Geatmen gracious saluted
  His fireside-companions: woe was his spirit,
- Death-boding, wav'ring; Weird very near him,
  Who must seize the old hero, his soul-treasure look for,
  Dragging aloof his life from his body:
  Not flesh-hidden long was the folk-leader's spirit.
  Beowulf spake, Ecgtheow's son:

Beowulf's retrospect. "I survived in my youth-days many a conflict,
Hours of onset: that all I remember.
I was seven-winters old when the jewel-prince took me,
High-lord of heroes, at the hands of my father,
Hrethel the hero-king had me in keeping,

Hrethel took me when I was seven.

He treated me as

40 Gave me treasure and feasting, our kinship remembered; Not ever was I any less dear to him Knight in the boroughs, than the bairns of his household, Herebald and Hæthcyn and Higelac mine.

Herebald and Hæthcyn and Higelac mine.

To the eldest unjustly by acts of a kinsman

Was murder-bed strewn, since him Hæthcyn from horn-bow His sheltering chieftain shot with an arrow, Erred in his aim and injured his kinsman, One brother the other, with blood-sprinkled spear:

No fee could compound for such a

One of the brothers

accidentally kills

another.

calamity.

'Twas a feeless fight, finished in malice,

Sad to his spirit; the folk-prince however

Had to part from existence with vengeance untaken.

So to hoar-headed hero 'tis heavily crushing '

[A parallel case is supposed.]

1 'Gomelum ceorle' (2445).— H. takes these words as referring to Hrethel; but the translator here departs from his editor by understanding the poet to refer to a hypothetical old man, introduced as an illustration of a father's

Hrethrel had certainly never seen a son of his ride on the gallows to feed

The passage beginning 'swá biổ géomorlic' seems to be an effort to reach

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To live to see his son as he rideth Young on the gallows: then measures he chanteth,

- For the raven's delight, and aged and hoary
  He is unable to offer any assistance.
  Every morning his offspring's departure
  Is constant recalled: he cares not to wait for
- The birth of an heir in his borough-enclosures,
  Since that one through death-pain the deeds hath experienced.
  He heart-grieved beholds in the house of his son the
  Wine-building wasted, the wind-lodging places
  Reaved of their roaring; the riders are sleeping,
- 65 The knights in the grave; there's no sound of the harp-wood, Joy in the yards, as of yore were familiar.

#### XXXV.

### REMINISCENCES (continued). - BEOWULF'S LAST BATTLE.

"He seeks then his chamber, singeth a woe-song
One for the other; all too extensive
Seemed homesteads and plains. So the helm of the Weders
Mindful of Herebald heart-sorrow carried,

Hrethel grieves for Herebald.

5 Stirred with emotion, nowise was able
To wreak his ruin on the ruthless destroyer:
He was unable to follow the warrior with hatred,
With deeds that were direful, though dear he not held him.

a full simile, 'as ... so.' 'As it is mournful for an old man, etc... so the defence of the Weders (2463) bore heart-sorrow, etc.' The verses 2451 to 2463½ would be parenthetical, the poet's feelings being so strong as to interrupt the simile. The punctuation of the fourth edition would be better—a comma after 'galgan' (2447). The translation may be indicated as follows: (Just) as it is sad for an old man to see his son ride young on the gallows when he himself is uttering mournful measures, a sorrowful song, while his son hangs for a comfort to the raven, and he, old and infirm, cannot render him any help—(he is constantly reminded, etc., 2451-2463)—so the defence of the Weders, etc.

..... Ongenuicow s onspring were Wished not to hold to peace overs Round Hreosna-beorh often accon-Cruelest massacre. This my kinst 20 The feud and fury, as 'tis found on Though one of them paid it with fo With price that was hard: the stru Fatal to Hæthcyn, lord of the Geal Then I heard that at morning one 25 With edges of irons egged on to mi Where Ongentheow maketh onset ( The helmet crashed, the hoary-hair Sword-smitten fell, his hand then re Feud-hate sufficient, refused not the The gems that he gave me, with jev 'Quited in contest, as occasion was Land he allowed me, life-joy at hon

I requited him for 30 the jewels he gave me.

Hastheyn's fall at

Ravenswood.

Manor to live on. Little he needed From Gepids or Danes or in Sweden Trooper less true, with treasure to be 'Mong foot-soldiers ever in front I was Alone in the vanguard, and evermon Warfare shall wage, while this weape That late and early often did serve the street when I proved before heroes the street.

Beowulf refers to



No weapon was slayer, but war-grapple broke then The surge of his spirit, his body destroying. Now shall weapon's edge make war for the treasure, And hand and firm-sword." Beowulf spake then, Boast-words uttered — the latest occasion:

50 "I braved in my youth-days battles unnumbered; Still am I willing the struggle to look for, Fame-deeds perform, folk-warden prudent, If the hateful despoiler forth from his cavern Seeketh me out!" Each of the heroes,

Helm-bearers sturdy, he thereupon greeted
 Belovèd co-liegemen — his last salutation:
 "No brand would I bear, no blade for the dragon,
 Wist I a way my word-boast to 'complish 1
 Else with the monster, as with Grendel I did it;

60 But fire in the battle hot I expect there,
Furious flame-burning: so I fixed on my body
Target and war-mail. The ward of the barrow<sup>2</sup>
I'll not flee from a foot-length, the foeman uncanny.
At the wall 'twill befall us as Fate decreeth.

65 Each one's Creator. I am eager in spirit, With the winged war-hero to away with all boasting. Bide on the barrow with burnies protected, Earls in armor, which of us two may better Bear his disaster, when the battle is over.

70 'Tis no matter of yours, and man cannot do it,
But me and me only, to measure his strength with
The monster of malice, might-deeds to 'complish.
I with prowess shall gain the gold, or the battle,

He boasts of his youthful prowess, and declares himself still fearless.

His last saluta-

Let Fate decide between us.

Wait ye here till the battle is over.

<sup>1</sup> The clause 2520(2)-2522(1), rendered by 'Wist I...monster,' Gr., followed by S., translates substantially as follows: If I knew how else I might combat the boastful defiance of the monster.—The translation turns upon 'wibgripan,' a word not understood.

<sup>2</sup> B. emends and translates: I will not flee the space of a foot from the guard of the barrow, but there shall be to us a fight at the wall, as Fate decrees, each one's Creator.

Direful death-woe will drag off your ruler!"

75 The mighty champion rose by his shield then,
Brave under helmet, in battle-mail went he

'Neath steep-rising stone-cliffs, the strength he relied on

(M one man alone: no work for a coward.

Then he saw by the wall who a great many battles

14ad lived through, most worthy, when foot-troops collided,
Stone-arches standing, stout-hearted champion,
Saw a brook from the barrow bubbling out thenceward:
The flood of the fountain was fuming with war-flame:
Not nigh to the hoard, for season the briefest

- 85 Could he brave, without burning, the abyss that was yawning,
  The drake was so fiery. The prince of the Weders
  Caused then that words came from his bosom,
  So fierce was his fury; the firm-hearted shouted:
  His battle-clear voice came in resounding
- 'Neath the gray-colored stone. Stirred was his hatred,
  The hoard-ward distinguished the speech of a man;
  Time was no longer to look out for friendship.
  The breath of the monster issued forth first,
  Vapory war-sweat, out of the stone-cave:

The terrible en-

Bauwulf calls out

under the stone

arilies

I he place of earth

to described.

The earth re-echoed. The earl 'neath the barrow Lifted his shield, lord of the Geatmen,
Tow'rd the terrible stranger: the ring-twisted creature's Heart was then ready to seek for a struggle.
The excellent battle-king first brandished his weapon,
The ancient heirloom, of edges unblunted,
To the death-planners twain was terror from other.
The lord of the troopers intrepidly stood then
'Gainst his high-rising shield, when the dragon coiled him

Quickly together: in corslet he bided.

Heawaif braudishes his sward,

and stands against The le

The diagon colla himself.

1 The translation of this passage is based on 'unslaw' (2565), accepted by 11. So., in lieu of the long-standing 'ungleaw.' The former is taken as an adj. limiting 'sweerd'; the latter as an adj. c. 'gab-cyning': The good war-long, rash with adjes, brandished his sword, his old relic. The latter gives a more rhetorical Angle-Saxon (poetical) sentence.

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105 He went then in blazes, bended and striding, Hasting him forward. His life and body The targe well protected, for time-period shorter Than wish demanded for the well-renowned leader, Where he then for the first day was forced to be victor,

110 Famous in battle, as Fate had not willed it. The lord of the Geatmen uplifted his hand then, Smiting the fire-drake with sword that was precious, That bright on the bone the blade-edge did weaken. Bit more feebly than his folk-leader needed,

Burdened with bale-griefs. Then the barrow-protector. When the sword-blow had fallen, was fierce in his spirit, Flinging his fires, flamings of battle Gleamed then afar: the gold-friend of Weders Boasted no conquests, his battle-sword failed him

120 Naked in conflict, as by no means it ought to, Long-trusty weapon. Twas no slight undertaking That Ecgtheow's famous offspring would leave The drake-cavern's bottom; he must live in some region Other than this, by the will of the dragon,

125 As each one of earthmen existence must forfeit. Twas early thereafter the excellent warriors Met with each other. Anew and afresh The hoard-ward took heart (gasps heaved then his bosom): Sorrow he suffered encircled with fire

130 Who the people erst governed. His companions by no means reduced to extremities. Were banded about him, bairns of the princes, With valorous spirit, but they sped to the forest, Seeking for safety. The soul-deeps of one were Ruffled by care: kin-love can never

135 Aught in him waver who well doth consider.

The dragon rages.

Beowniffs sword fails him.

The combat is renewed.

The great hero is

His comrades flee!

Blood is thicker than water.

### XXXVI.

## WIGLAF THE TRUSTY. — BEOWULF IS DESERTED BY FRIENDS AND BY SWORD.

Wiglaf remains true — the ideal Teutonic liegeman. The son of Weohstan was Wiglaf entitled, Shield-warrior precious, prince of the Scylfings, Ælfhere's kinsman: he saw his dear liegelord Enduring the heat 'neath helmet and visor.

Wiglaf recalls Beowulf's generosity.

- Then he minded the holding that erst he had given him,
  The Wægmunding warriors' wealth-blessèd homestead,
  Each of the folk-rights his father had wielded;
  He was hot for the battle, his hand seized the target,
  The yellow-bark shield, he unsheathed his old weapon,
- Which was known among earthmen as the relic of Eanmund, Ohthere's offspring, whom, exiled and friendless, Weohstan did slay with sword-edge in battle, And carried his kinsman the clear-shining helmet, The ring-made burnie, the old giant-weapon
- That Onela gave him, his boon-fellow's armor,
  Ready war-trappings: he the feud did not mention,
  Though he'd fatally smitten the son of his brother.
  Many a half-year held he the treasures,
  The bill and the burnie, till his bairn became able,
- Like his father before him, fame-deeds to 'complish;
   Then he gave him 'mong Geatmen a goodly array of Weeds for his warfare; he went from life then Old on his journey. 'Twas the earliest time then That the youthful champion might charge in the battle
   Aiding his liegelord; his spirit was dauntless.

This is Wiglat's first battle as liegeman of Beowulf.

Nor did kinsman's bequest quail at the battle:
This the dragon discovered on their coming together.
Wiglaf uttered many a right-saying,
Said to his fellows, sad was his spirit:
"I remember the time when tasting the mead-cup.

Wiglaf appeals to the pride of the cowards.

"I remember the time when, tasting the mead-cup, We promised in the hall the lord of us all

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Who gave us these ring-treasures, that this battle-equipment, Swords and helmets, we'd certainly quite him, Should need of such aid ever befall him:

In the war-band he chose us for this journey spontaneously, Stirred us to glory and gave me these jewels, Since he held and esteemed us trust-worthy spearmen, Hardy helm-bearers, though this hero-achievement Our lord intended alone to accomplish,

How we have forfeited our liegelord's confidence!

Ward of his people, for most of achievements, Doings audacious, he did among earth-folk. The day is now come when the ruler of earthmen Needeth the vigor of valiant heroes: Let us wend us towards him, the war-prince to succor,

Our lord is in sore need of us.

While the heat yet rageth, horrible fire-fight.
God wot in me, 'tis mickle the liefer
The blaze should embrace my body and eat it
With my treasure-bestower. Meseemeth not proper
To bear our battle-shields back to our country,

I would rather die than go home without my suzerain.

'Less first we are able to fell and destroy the Long-hating foeman, to defend the life of The prince of the Weders. Well do I know 'tisn't Earned by his exploits, he only of Geatmen Sorrow should suffer, sink in the battle:

Surely he does not deserve to die alone.

Brand and helmet to us both shall be common, <sup>1</sup>Shield-cover, burnie." Through the bale-smoke he stalked then,

Went under helmet to the help of his chieftain, Briefly discoursing: "Beowulf dear, Perform thou all fully, as thou formerly saidst, 60 In thy youthful years, that while yet thou livedst

Wiglaf reminds Beowulf of his youthful boasts.

<sup>1</sup> The passage 'Brand ... burnie,' is much disputed. In the first place, some eminent critics assume a gap of at least two half-verses. — 'Úrum' (2660), being a peculiar form, has been much discussed. 'Byrdu-scrúd' is also a crux. B. suggests 'býwdu-scrúd' = splendid vestments. Nor is 'bám' accepted by all, 'béon' being suggested. Whatever the individual words, the passage must mean, "I intend to share with him my equipments of defence."

Thou wouldst let thine honor not ever be lessened.

Thy life thou shalt save, mighty in actions,

Atheling undaunted, with all of thy vigor;

I'll give thee assistance." The dragon came raging,

The monster advances on them.

- I'll give thee assistance." The dragon came raging,
  Wild-mooded stranger, when these words had been uttered
  ('Twas the second occasion), seeking his enemies,
  Men that were hated, with hot-gleaming fire-waves;
  With blaze-billows burned the board to its edges:
  The fight-armor failed then to furnish assistance
- 70 To the youthful spear-hero: but the young-agèd stripling Quickly advanced 'neath his kinsman's war-target, Since his own had been ground in the grip of the fire. Then the warrior-king was careful of glory, He soundly smote with sword-for-the-battle,

Beowulf strikes at the dragon.

His sword fails

him.

75 That it stood in the head by hatred ydriven;
Nægling was shivered, the old and iron-made
Brand of Beowulf in battle deceived him.
Twas denied him that edges of irons were able
To help in the battle; the hand was too mighty

80 Which every weapon, as I heard on inquiry,
Outstruck in its stroke, when to struggle he carried
The wonderful war-sword: it waxed him no better.
Then the people-despoiler — third of his onsets —
Fierce-raging fire-drake, of feud-hate was mindful,

The dragon advances on Beowulf again.

- 85 Charged on the strong one, when chance was afforded, Heated and war-grim, seized on his neck With teeth that were bitter; he bloody did wax with Soul-gore seething; sword-blood in waves boiled.
- <sup>1</sup> B. would render: Which, as I heard, excelled in stroke every sword that he carried to the strife, even the strongest (sword). For 'bonne' he reads 'bone,' rel. pr.



#### XXXVII.

### THE FATAL STRUGGLE. - BEOWULF'S LAST MOMENTS.

Then I heard that at need of the king of the people

The upstanding earlman exhibited prowess,

Vigor and courage, as suited his nature;

¹ He his head did not guard, but the high-minded liegeman's

Hand was consumed, when he succored his kinsman,

So he struck the strife-bringing strange-comer lower,

Earl-thane in armor, that in went the weapon

Gleaming and plated, that 'gan then the fire that the liegelord himself then

Retained his consciousness, brandished his war-knife,

Battle-sharp, bitter, that he bare on his armor:

Puissant prowess), the pair had destroyed him,
Land-chiefs related: so a liegeman should prove him,
A thaneman when needed. To the prince 'twas the last of
His era of conquest by his own great achievements,

The Weder-lord cut the worm in the middle.

They had felled the enemy (life drove out then 8

Wiglaf defends Beownif.

Beowulf draws his knife,

and cuts the dragon.

- <sup>1</sup> B. renders: He (W.) did not regard his (the dragon's) head (since Beowulf had struck it without effect), but struck the dragon a little lower down.

   One crux is to find out whose head is meant; another is to bring out the antithesis between 'head' and 'hand.'
- <sup>2</sup> 'pæt þæt fýr' (2702), S. emends to 'þá þæt fýr' = when the fire began to grow less intense afterward. This emendation relieves the passage of a plethora of conjunctive þæt's.
- \* For 'gefyldan' (2707), S. proposes 'gefylde.' The passage would read: He felled the foe (life drove out strength), and they then both had destroyed him, chieftains related. This gives Beowulf the credit of having felled the dragon; then they combine to annihilate him. For 'ellen' (2707), Kl. suggests 'e(a)llne.' The reading 'life drove out strength' is very unsatisfactory and very peculiar. I would suggest as follows: Adopt S.'s emendation, remove H.'s parenthesis, read 'ferh-ellen wreec,' and translate: He felled the foe, drove out his life-strength (that is, made him hors de combat), and then they both, etc.

Beowulf's wound swells and burns.

He sits down ex-

Wiglaf bathes his

Beowulf regrets

that he has no son.

lord's head.

hausted.

The latest of world-deeds. The wound then began Which the earth-dwelling dragon erstwhile had wrought him

20 To burn and to swell. He soon then discovered That bitterest bale-woe in his bosom was raging. Poison within. The atheling advanced then, That along by the wall, he prudent of spirit Might sit on a settle; he saw the giant-work, 25 How arches of stone strengthened with pillars-

The earth-hall eternal inward supported. Then the long-worthy liegeman laved with his hand the Far-famous chieftain, gory from sword-edge, Refreshing the face of his friend-lord and ruler,

30 Sated with battle, unbinding his helmet. Beowulf answered, of his injury spake he, His wound that was fatal (he was fully aware He had lived his allotted life-days enjoying The pleasures of earth; then past was entirely

35 His measure of days, death very near):

"My son I would give now my battle-equipments, Had any of heirs been after me granted, Along of my body. This people I governed Fifty of winters: no king 'mong my neighbors

40 Dared to encounter me with comrades-in-battle, Try me with terror. The time to me ordered I bided at home, mine own kept fitly, Sought me no snares, swore me not many Oaths in injustice. Joy over all this

45 I'm able to have, though ill with my death-wounds;

Hence the Ruler of Earthmen need not charge me With the killing of kinsmen, when cometh my life out Forth from my body. Fare thou with haste now To behold the hoard 'neath the hoar-grayish stone, Well-loved Wiglaf, now the worm is a-lying, Sore-wounded sleepeth, disseized of his treasure. Go thou in haste that treasures of old I, Gold-wealth may gaze on, together see lying

I can rejoice in a well-spent life.

Bring me the hoard, Wiglaf, that my dying eyes may 50 be refreshed by a sight of it.



The ether-bright jewels, be easier able,
Having the heap of hoard-gems, to yield my
Life and the land-folk whom long I have governed."

#### XXXVIII.

# WIGLAF PLUNDERS THE DRAGON'S DEN. — BEOWULF'S DEATH.

Then heard I that Wihstan's son very quickly,
These words being uttered, heeded his liegelord
Wounded and war-sick, went in his armor,
His well-woven ring-mail, 'neath the roof of the barrow.

Wiglaf fulfils his lord's behest.

Then the trusty retainer treasure-gems many
Victorious saw, when the seat he came near to,
Gold-treasure sparkling spread on the bottom,
Wonder on the wall, and the worm-creature's cavern,
The ancient dawn-flier's, vessels a-standing,

The dragon's den.

- Cups of the ancients of cleansers bereaved,
  Robbed of their ornaments: there were helmets in numbers,
  Old and rust-eaten, arm-bracelets many,
  Artfully woven. Wealth can easily,
  Gold on the sea-bottom, turn into vanity 1
- 15 Each one of earthmen, arm him who pleaseth!

  And he saw there lying an all-golden banner

  High o'er the hoard, of hand-wonders greatest,

  Linkèd with lacets: a light from it sparkled,

  That the floor of the cavern he was able to look on,
- 20 To examine the jewels. Sight of the dragon

The dragon is not there.

<sup>1</sup> The word 'oferhigian' (2767) being vague and little understood, two quite distinct translations of this passage have arisen. One takes 'oferhigian' as meaning 'to exceed,' and, inserting 'hord' after 'gehwone,' renders: The treasure may easily, the gold in the ground, exceed in value every hoard of man, hide it who will. The other takes 'oferhigian' as meaning 'to render arrogant,' and, giving the sentence a moralizing tone, renders substantially as in the body of this work. (Cf. 28<sub>19</sub> et seq.)

## Wiglaf bears the hoard away.

Not any was offered, but edge offcarried him.

Then I heard that the hero the hoard-treasure plundered,
The giant-work ancient reaved in the cavern,
Bare on his bosom the beakers and platters.

- As himself would fain have it, and took off the standard,
  The brightest of beacons; the bill had erst injured
  (Its edge was of iron), the old-ruler's weapon,
  Him who long had watched as ward of the jewels,
  Who fire-terror carried hot for the treasure,
- Rolling in battle, in middlemost darkness,
  Till murdered he perished. The messenger hastened,
  Not loth to return, hurried by jewels:
  Curiosity urged him if, excellent-mooded,
  Alive he should find the lord of the Weders
- Mortally wounded, at the place where he left him.
  'Mid the jewels he found then the famous old chieftain,
  His liegelord beloved, at his life's-end gory:
  He thereupon 'gan to lave him with water,
  Till the point of his word pierced his breast-hoard.

Beowulf is rejoiced to see the jewels.

He desires to be

- Beowulf spake (the gold-gems he noticed),
  The old one in sorrow: "For the jewels I look on
  Thanks do I utter for all to the Ruler,
  Wielder of Worship, with words of devotion,
  The Lord everlasting, that He let me such treasures
- 45 Gain for my people ere death overtook me.

  Since I've bartered the agèd life to me granted
  For treasure of jewels, attend ye henceforward
  The wants of the war-thanes; I can wait here no longer.

  The battle-famed bid ye to build them a grave-hill,
- his people.

  The batt
  Bright w

50 Bright when I'm burned, at the brim-current's limit; As a memory-mark to the men I have governed,

<sup>1</sup> The passage beginning here is very much disputed. 'The bill of the old lord' is by some regarded as Beowulf's sword; by others, as that of the ancient possessor of the hoard. 'Ær gescód' (2778), translated in this work as verb and adverb, is by some regarded as a compound participial adj. = sheathed in brass.



Aloft it shall tower on Whale's-Ness uprising,
That earls of the ocean hereafter may call it
Beowulf's barrow, those who barks ever-dashing
From a distance shall drive o'er the darkness of waters."
The bold-mooded troop-lord took from his neck then
The ring that was golden, gave to his liegeman,
The youthful war-hero, his gold-flashing helmet,
His collar and war-mail, bade him well to enjoy them:

"Thou art latest left of the line of our kindred,
Of Wægmunding people: Weird hath offcarried
All of my kinsmen to the Creator's glory,
Earls in their vigor: I shall after them fare."

"Twas the agèd liegelord's last-spoken word in
His musings of spirit, ere he mounted the fire,
The battle-waves burning: from his bosom departed

The hero's last gift

and last words.

#### XXXIX.

His soul to seek the sainted ones' glory.

#### THE DEAD FOES. - WIGLAF'S BITTER TAUNTS.

It had wofully chanced then the youthful retainer
To behold on earth the most ardent-beloved
At his life-days' limit, lying there helpless.
The slayer too lay there, of life all bereaved,
Horrible earth-drake, harassed with sorrow:
The round-twisted monster was permitted no longer
To govern the ring-hoards, but edges of war-swords
Mightily seized him, battle-sharp, sturdy
Leavings of hammers, that still from his wounds
The flier-from-farland fell to the earth
Hard by his hoard-house, hopped he at midnight
Not e'er through the air, nor exulting in jewels
Suffered them to see him: but he sank then to earthward
Through the hero-chief's handwork. I heard sure it throve

Wiglaf is sorely grieved to see his lord look so unwarlike.

The dragon has plundered his last hoard.

Few warriors dared to face the monster.

- Though of every achievement bold he had proved him,
  To run 'gainst the breath of the venomous scather,
  Or the hall of the treasure to trouble with hand-blows,
  If he watching had found the ward of the hoard-hall
- On the barrow abiding. Beowulf's part of
  The treasure of jewels was paid for with death;
  Each of the twain had attained to the end of
  Life so unlasting. Not long was the time till
  The tardy-at-battle returned from the thicket,

The cowardly thanes come out of the thicket.

The timid truce-breakers ten all together,
Who durst not before play with the lances
In the prince of the people's pressing emergency;
But blushing with shame, with shields they betook them,
With arms and armor where the old one was lying:

They are ashamed of their desertion.

- They gazed upon Wiglaf. He was sitting exhausted, Foot-going fighter, not far from the shoulders Of the lord of the people, would rouse him with water; No whit did it help him; though he hoped for it keenly, He was able on earth not at all in the leader
- Life to retain, and nowise to alter
   The will of the Wielder; the World-Ruler's power¹
   Would govern the actions of each one of heroes,
   As yet He is doing. From the young one forthwith then
   Could grim-worded greeting be got for him quickly

Wiglaf is ready to excoriate them.

Whose courage had failed him. Wiglaf discoursed then,
Weohstan his son, sad-mooded hero,

He begins to taunt them.

- Looked on the hated: "He who soothness will utter Can say that the liegelord who gave you the jewels, The ornament-armor wherein ye are standing,
- When on ale-bench often he offered to hall-men Helmet and burnie, the prince to his liegemen, As best upon earth he was able to find him,—

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For 'dædum rædan' (2859) B. suggests 'déa' árædan,' and renders: The might (or judgment) of God would determine death for every man, as he still does.



That he wildly wasted his war-gear undoubtedly
When battle o'ertook him.¹ The troop-king no need had
To glory in comrades; yet God permitted him,
Victory-Wielder, with weapon unaided
Himself to avenge, when vigor was needed.
I life-protection but little was able
To give him in battle, and I 'gan, notwithstanding,
Helping my kinsman (my strength overtaxing):

Helping my kinsman (my strength overtaxing):
He waxed the weaker when with weapon I smote on
My mortal opponent, the fire less strongly
Flamed from his bosom. Too few of protectors
Came round the king at the critical moment.

60 Now must ornament-taking and weapon-bestowing, Home-joyance all, cease for your kindred, Food for the people; each of your warriors Must needs be bereaved of rights that he holdeth In landed possessions, when faraway nobles

65 Shall learn of your leaving your lord so basely, The dastardly deed. Death is more pleasant To every earlman than infamous life is!" Surely our lord wasted his armor on poltroons.

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He, however, got along without you.

With some aid, I could have saved our liegelord.

Gift-giving is over with your people: the ring-lord is dead.

What is life without honor?

#### XL.

### THE MESSENGER OF DEATH.

Then he charged that the battle be announced at the hedge Up o'er the cliff-edge, where the earl-troopers bided The whole of the morning, mood-wretten sat them, Bearers of battle-shields, both things exacting,

The end of his lifetime and the coming gain of The liegelord beloved. Little reserved he

Of news that was known, who the ness-cliff did travel,
But he truly discoursed to all that could hear him:

Wiglaf sends the news of Beowulf's death to liegemen near by.

<sup>1</sup> Some critics, H. himself in earlier editions, put the clause, 'When... him' (A.-S. 'þá... beget') with the following sentence; that is, they make it dependent upon 'borfte' (2875) instead of upon 'forwurpe' (2873).

The messenger speaks.

"Now the free-giving friend-lord of the folk of the Weders,
The folk-prince of Geatmen, is fast in his death-bed,
By the deeds of the dragon in death-bed abideth;
Along with him lieth his life-taking foeman
Slain with knife-wounds: he was wholly unable
To injure at all the ill-planning monster

Wiglaf sits by our 15 dead lord.

With bite of his sword-edge. Wiglaf is sitting,
Offspring of Wihstan, up over Beowulf,
Earl o'er another whose end-day hath reached him,
Head-watch holdeth o'er heroes unliving,
For friend and for foeman. The folk now expecteth
A season of strife when the death of the folk-king
To Frankmen and Frisians in far-lands is published.
The war-hatred waxed warm 'gainst the Hugmen,
When Higelac came with an army of vessels

Our lord's death will lead to attacks from our old foes.

Higelac's death recalled.

Faring to Friesland, where the Frankry hattle
Humbled him and bravely with overmight
That the mail-clad warrior must sink in the best fell 'mid his folk-troop: no fret-gems presented
The atheling to earlmen; aye was denied us
Merewing's mercy. The men of the Swedelands

Hæthcyn's fall referred to. For truce or for truth trust I but little; But widely 'twas known that near Ravenswood Ongentheow Sundered Hæthcyn the Hrethling from life-joys, When for pride overweening the War-Scylfings first did Seek the Geatmen with savage intentions.

Early did Ohthere's age-laden father, Old and terrible, give blow in requital, Killing the sea-king, the queen-mother rescued, The old one his consort deprived of her gold, Onela's mother and Ohthere's also,

1 'Hige-méŏum' (2910) is glossed by H. as dat. plu. (= for the dead). S. proposes 'hige-méŏe,' nom. sing. limiting Wigláf; i.e. W., mood-weary, holds head-watch o'er friend and foe. — B. suggests taking the word as dat. inst. plu. of an abstract noun in -'u.' The translation would be substantially the same as S.'s.



- And then followed the feud-nursing foemen till hardly,
  Reaved of their ruler, they Ravenswood entered.

  Then with vast-numbered forces he assaulted the remnant,
  Weary with wounds, woe often promised

  The livelong night to the sad-hearted war-troop:
- Said he at morning would kill them with edges of weapons,
  Some on the gallows for glee to the fowls.
  Aid came after to the anxious-in-spirit
  At dawn of the day, after Higelac's bugle
  And trumpet-sound heard they, when the good one proceeded
  And faring followed the flower of the troopers.

#### XLI.

#### THE MESSENGER'S RETROSPECT.

"The blood-stained trace of Swedes and Geatmen,
The death-rush of warmen, widely was noticed,
How the folks with each other feud did awaken.
The worthy one went then with well-beloved comrades,
Old and dejected to go to the fastness,
Ongentheo earl upward then turned him;
Of Higelac's battle he'd heard on inquiry,
The xultant one's prowess, despaired of resistance,
With earls of the ocean to be able to struggle,
'Gainst sea-going sailors to save the hoard-treasure,
His wife and his children; he fled after thenceward
Old 'neath the earth-wall. Then was offered pursuance
To the braves of the Swedemen, the banner to Higelac.

The messenger continues, and refers to the feuds of Swedes and Gests.

<sup>1</sup> For 'góda,' which seems a surprising epithet for a Geat to apply to the "terrible" Ongentheow, B. suggests 'gomela.' The passage would then stand: 'The old one went then,' etc.

<sup>2</sup> For 'segn Higeláce,' K., Th., and B. propose 'segn Higeláces,' meaning: Higelac's banner followed the Swedes (in pursuit).—S. suggests 'sæcc Higeláces,' and renders: Higelac's pursuit.—The H.-So. reading, as translated in our text, means that the banner of the enemy was captured and brought to Higelac as a trophy.

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They fared then forth o'er the field-of-protection,

When the Hrethling heroes hedgeward had thronged them.

Then with edges of irons was Ongentheow driven,

The gray-haired to tarry, that the troop-ruler had to

Suffer the power solely of Eofor:

Beowulf.

Wulf wounds Ongentheow. Wulf then wildly with weapon assaulted him, Wonred his son, that for swinge of the edges

The blood from his body burst out in currents, Forth 'neath his hair. He feared not however, Gray-headed Scylfing, but speedily quited

Ongentheow gives a stout blow in return. The wasting wound-stroke with worse exchange,

When the king of the thane-troop thither did turn him:
The wise-mooded son of Wonred was powerless
To give a return-blow to the age-hoary man,
But his head-shielding helmet first hewed he to pieces,
That flecked with gore perforce he did totter,

30 Fell to the earth; not fey was he yet then, But up did he spring though an edge-wound had reached him.

Eofor smites Ongentheow fiercely. Then Higelac's vassal, valiant and dauntless,
When his brother lay dead, made his broad-bladed weapon,
Ciant ground ancient defence of the giants

Giant-sword ancient, defence of the giants,

Ongentheow is slain.

Bound o'er the shield-wall; the folk-prince succumbed then, Shepherd of people, was pierced to the vitals.

There were many attendants who bound up his kinsman, Carried him quickly when occasion was granted

That the place of the slain they were suffered to manage.

٠, ٠

This pending, one hero plundered the other,
His armor of iron from Ongentheow ravished,
His hard-sword hilted and helmet together;
The old one's equipments he carried to Higelac.
He the jewels received, and rewards 'mid the troopers'

Eofor takes the old king's war-gear to Higelac.

Graciously promised, and so did accomplish:
The king of the Weders requited the war-rush,
Hrethel's descendant, when home he repaired him,
To Eofor and Wulf with wide-lavished treasures,
To each of them granted a hundred of thousands

Higelac rewards the brothers.

101

50 In land and rings wrought out of wire:
None upon mid-earth needed to twit him 1
With the gifts he gave them, when glory they conquered;
And to Eofor then gave he his one only daughter,
The honor of home, as an earnest of favor.

That's the feud and hatred — as ween I 'twill happen —
The anger of earthmen, that earls of the Swedemen
Will visit on us, when they hear that our leader
Lifeless is lying, he who longtime protected
His hoard and kingdom 'gainst hating assailers,

Who on the fall of the heroes defended of yore
The deed-mighty Scyldings, did for the troopers
What best did avail them, and further moreover
Hero-deeds 'complished. Now is haste most fitting,
That the lord of liegemen we look upon yonder,

65 And that one carry on journey to death-pyre
Who ring-presents gave us. Not aught of it all
Shall melt with the brave one — there's a mass of bright jewels,
Gold beyond measure, grewsomely purchased
And ending it all ornament-rings too

Bought with his life; these fire shall devour, Flame shall cover, no earlman shall wear A jewel-memento, nor beautiful virgin Have on her neck rings to adorn her, But wretched in spirit bereaved of gold-gems

75 She shall oft with others be exiled and banished, Since the leader of liegemen hath laughter forsaken,

<sup>1</sup> The rendering given in this translation represents the king as being generous beyond the possibility of reproach; but some authorities construe 'him' (2996) as plu, and understand the passage to mean that no one reproached the two brothers with having received more reward than they were entitled to.

<sup>2</sup> The name 'Scyldingas' here (3006) has caused much discussion, and given rise to several theories, the most important of which are as follows: (1) After the downfall of Hrothgar's family, Beowulf was king of the Danes, or Scyldings. (2) For 'Scyldingas' read 'Scylfingas'—that is, after killing Eadgils, the Scylfing prince, Beowulf conquered his land, and held it in subjection. (3) M. considers 3006 a thoughtless repetition of 2053. (Cf. H.-So.)

His gifts were beyond cavil.

To Eofor he also gives his only daughter in marriage.

It is time for us to pay the last marks of respect to our lord.

Mirth and merriment. Hence many a war-spear
Cold from the morning shall be clutched in the fingers,
Heaved in the hand, no harp-music's sound shall
Waken the warriors, but the wan-coated raven
Fain over fey ones freely shall gabble,
Shall say to the eagle how he sped in the eating,

When, the wolf his companion, he plundered the slain." So the high-minded hero was rehearsing these stories

The warriors go sadly to look at Beowulf's lifeless body.

- 85 Loathsome to hear; he lied as to few of Weirds and of words. All the war-troop arose then, 'Neath the Eagle's Cape sadly betook them, Weeping and woful, the wonder to look at. They saw on the sand then soulless a-lying,
- His slaughter-bed holding, him who rings had given them In days that were done; then the death-bringing moment Was come to the good one, that the king very warlike, Wielder of Weders, with wonder-death perished. First they beheld there a creature more wondrous,

They also see the dragon.

- First they beheld there a creature more wondrous,
  The worm on the field, in front of them lying,
  The foeman before them: the fire-spewing dragon,
  Ghostly and grisly guest in his terrors,
  Was scorched in the fire; as he lay there he measured
  Fifty of feet; came forth in the night-time <sup>1</sup>
- To rejoice in the air, thereafter departing
  To visit his den; he in death was then fastened,
  He would joy in no other earth-hollowed caverns.
  There stood round about him beakers and vessels,
  Dishes were lying and dear-valued weapons,
- A thousand of winters there they had rested:

  That mighty bequest then with magic was guarded,
  Gold of the ancients, that earlman not any
  The ring-hall could touch, save Ruling-God only,

The hoard was under a magic spell.

<sup>1</sup> B. takes 'nihtes' and 'hwflum' (3045) as separate adverbial cases, and renders: *yoy in the air had he of yore by night, etc.* He thinks that the idea of vanished time ought to be expressed.



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no Sooth-king of Vict'ries gave whom He wished to
 1 (He is earth-folk's protector) to open the treasure,
 E'en to such among mortals as seemed to Him proper.

God alone could give access to it.

#### XLII.

#### WIGLAF'S SAD STORY. - THE HOARD CARRIED OFF.

Then 'twas seen that the journey prospered him little Who wrongly within had the ornaments hidden <sup>2</sup> Down 'neath the wall. The warden erst slaughtered Some few of the folk-troop: the feud then thereafter

- Was hotly avenged. Tis a wonder where,<sup>3</sup>
  When the strength-famous trooper has attained to the end of Life-days allotted, then no longer the man may Remain with his kinsmen where mead-cups are flowing. So to Beowulf happened when the ward of the barrow,
- Assaults, he sought for: himself had no knowledge How his leaving this life was likely to happen. So to doomsday, famous folk-leaders down did Call it with curses who 'complished it there —
- <sup>1</sup> The parenthesis is by some emended so as to read: (1) (He (i.e. God) is the hope of men); (2) (he is the hope of heroes). Gt.'s reading has no parenthesis, but says: ... could touch, unless God himself, true king of victories, gave to whom he would to open the treasure, the secret place of enchanters, etc. The last is rejected on many grounds.
- <sup>2</sup> For 'gehýdde,' B. suggests 'gehýðde': the passage would stand as above except the change of 'hidden' (v. 2) to 'plundered.' The reference, however, would be to the thief, not to the dragon.
- The passage 'Wundur...búan' (3063-3066), M. took to be a question asking whether it was strange that a man should die when his appointed time had come.— B. sees a corruption, and makes emendations introducing the idea that a brave man should not die from sickness or from old age, but should find death in the performance of some deed of daring.— S. sees an indirect question introduced by 'hwár' and dependent upon 'wundur': A secret is it when the hero is to die, etc.— Why may the two clauses not be parallel, and the whole passage an Old English cry of 'How wonderful is death!'?—S.'s is the best yet offered, if 'wundor' means 'mystery.'

That that man should be ever of ill-deeds convicted,

Confined in foul-places, fastened in hell-bonds,

Punished with plagues, who this place should e'er ravage.

He cared not for gold: rather the Wielder's

Favor preferred he first to get sight of.

Wiglaf discoursed then, Wihstan his son:

## Wiglaf addresses his comrades.

- "Oft many an earlman on one man's account must Sorrow endure, as to us it hath happened. The liegelord beloved we could little prevail on, Kingdom's keeper, counsel to follow, Not to go to the guardian of the gold-hoard, but let him
- 25 Lie where he long was, live in his dwelling
  Till the end of the world. Met we a destiny
  Hard to endure: the hoard has been looked at,
  Been gained very grimly; too grievous the fate that 3
  The prince of the people pricked to come thither.
- J was therein and all of it looked at, The building's equipments, since access was given me, Not kindly at all entrance permitted

#### He tells them of Beowulf's last moments.

Within under earth-wall. Hastily seized I And held in my hands a huge-weighing burden

To my liegelord beloved: life was yet in him,
And consciousness also; the old one discoursed then
Much and mournfully, commanded to greet you,
Bade that remembering the deeds of your friend-lord

## Beowulf's dying request.

Ye build on the fire-hill of corpses a lofty
Burial-barrow, broad and far-famous,
As 'mid world-dwelling warriors he was widely most honored
While he reveled in riches. Let us rouse us and hasten

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For 'strude' in H.-So., S. suggests 'stride.' This would require 'ravage' (v. 16) to be changed to 'tread.'

<sup>2&#</sup>x27;He cared ... sight of' (17, 18), S. emends so as to read as follows: He (Beowulf) had not before seen the favor of the avaricious possessor.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> B. renders: That which drew the king thither (i.e. the treasure) was granted us, but in such a way that it overcomes us.



. . .

- Again to see and seek for the treasure,

  The wonder 'neath wall. The way I will show you,
  That close ye may look at ring-gems sufficient
  And gold in abundance. Let the bier with promptness
  Fully be fashioned, when forth we shall come,
  And lift we our lord, then, where long he shall tarry,
  Well-beloved warrior, 'neath the Wielder's protection."
  Then the son of Wihstan bade orders be given,
  Mood-valiant man, to many of heroes,
  Holders of homesteads, that they hither from far,

  Leaders of liegemen, should look for the good one
- (The wan fire shall wax 3) the warriors' leader
  Who the rain of the iron often abided,
  When, sturdily hurled, the storm of the arrows
  Leapt o'er linden-wall, the lance rendered service,
- 60 Furnished with feathers followed the arrow."

  Now the wise-mooded son of Wihstan did summon

  The best of the braves from the band of the ruler

  Seven together; 'neath the enemy's roof he

  Went with the seven; one of the heroes
- 65 Who fared at the front, a fire-blazing torch-light Bare in his hand. No lot then decided Who that hoard should havoc, when hero-earls saw it Lying in the cavern uncared-for entirely, Rusting to ruin: they rued then but little
- 70 That they hastily hence hauled out the treasure,
  The dear-valued jewels; the dragon eke pushed they,
  The worm o'er the wall, let the wave-currents take him,

Wiglaf charges them to build a funeral-pyre.

He takes seven thanes, and enters the den.

They push the dragon over the

1 'Folc-ágende' (3114) B. takes as dat. sing. with 'gódum,' and refers it to Beowulf; that is, Should bring fire-wood to the place where the good folk-ruler lay.

<sup>2</sup> C. proposes to take 'weaxan' = L. 'vescor,' and translate devour. This gives a parallel to 'fretan' above. The parenthesis would be discarded and the passage read: Now shall the fire consume, the wan-flame devour, the prince of warriors, etc.

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### Beowulf.

The hoard is laid on a wain.

The waters enwind the ward of the treasures.

There wounden gold on a wain was uploaded,

A mass unmeasured, the men-leader off then,

The hero hoary, to Whale's-Ness was carried.

#### XLIII.

#### THE BURNING OF BEOWULF.

Beowulf's pyre.

The folk of the Geatmen got him then ready

A pile on the earth strong for the burning,

Behung with helmets, hero-knights' targets,

And bright-shining burnies, as he begged they should have them;

Then wailing war-heroes their world-famous chieftain, Their liegelord beloved, laid in the middle.

The funeral-flame,

Soldiers began then to make on the barrow

The largest of dead-fires: dark o'er the vapor
The smoke-cloud ascended, the sad-roaring fire,

Mingled with weeping (the wind-roar subsided)
Till the building of bone it had broken to pieces,
Hot in the heart. Heavy in spirit

Hot in the heart. Heavy in spirit

They mood-sad lamented the men-leader's ruin;

And mournful measures the much-grieving widow

15

The Weders carry out their lord's last request.

The men of the Weders made accordingly
A hill on the height, high and extensive,
Of sea-going sailors to be seen from a distance,
And the brave one's beacon built where the fire was,
In ten-days' space, with a wall surrounded it,
As wisest of world-folk could most worthily plan it.
They placed in the barrow rings and jewels,



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Rings and gems are laid in the

barrow.

All such ornaments as erst in the treasure
War-mooded men had won in possession:
The earnings of earlmen to earth they entrusted,
The gold to the dust, where yet it remaineth
As useless to mortals as in foregoing eras.
'Round the dead-mound rode then the doughty-in-battle,
Bairns of all twelve of the chiefs of the people,
More would they mourn, lament for their ruler,
Speak in measure, mention him with pleasure,
Weighed his worth, and his warlike achievements

They mourn for their lord, and sing his praises.

Liegelord in words and love him in spirit,
When forth from his body he fares to destruction.
So lamented mourning the men of the Geats,
Fond-loving vassals, the fall of their lord,
Said he was gentlest of kings under heaven,
Mildest of men and most philanthropic,

Mightily commended, as 'tis meet one praise his

An ideal king.

45 Friendliest to folk-troops and fondest of honor.







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### ADDENDA.

SEVERAL discrepancies and other oversights have been noticed in the H.-So. glossary. Of these a good part were avoided by Harrison and Sharp, the American editors of Beowulf, in their last edition, 1888. The rest will, I hope, be noticed in their fourth edition. As, however, this book may fall into the hands of some who have no copy of the American edition, it seems best to notice all the principal oversights of the German editors.

From ham (194).— Notes and glossary conflict; the latter not having been altered to suit the conclusions accepted in the former.

pser gelýfan sceal dryhtnes dóme (440).—Under 'dóm' H. says 'the might of the Lord'; while under 'gelýfan' he says 'the judgment of the Lord.'

Eal benchelu (486). — Under 'benc-helu' H. says nom. plu.; while under 'eal' he says nom. sing.

Heatho-ræmas (519). — Under 'ætberan' H. translates 'to the Heathoremes'; while under 'Heatho-ræmas' he says 'Heathoræmas reaches Breca in the swimming-match with Beowulf.' Harrison and Sharp (3d edition, 1888) avoid the discrepancy.

Fáh féond-scaőa (554). — Under 'féond-scaőa' H. says 'a gleaming sea-monster'; under 'fáh' he says 'hostile.'

Onfeng hrave inwit-paneum (749).—Under 'onfon' H. says 'he received the maliciously-disposed one'; under 'inwit-pane' he says 'he grasped,' etc.

Nis-wundor séon (1366). — Under 'nio-wundor' H. calls this word itself nom. sing.; under 'séon' he translates it as accus. sing., understanding 'man' as subject of 'séon.' H. and S. (3d edition) make the correction.

Forgeaf hilde-bille (1521).— H., under the second word, calls it instr. dat.; while under 'forgifan' he makes it the dat. of indir. obj. H. and S. (3d edition) make the change.

Brád and brún-eeg (1547). — Under 'brád' H. says 'das breite Hüftmesser mit bronzener Klinge'; under 'brún-eeg' he says 'ihr breites Hüftmesser mit blitzender Klinge.'